
SENATE BILL 5939

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Wagoner and Van De Wege

Prefiled 01/02/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting livestock from wolf predation;
2 amending RCW 77.15.120; creating a new section; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The department of fish and wildlife
6 must establish a three-year pilot program in order to evaluate the
7 effectiveness of authorizing the taking of the first wolf that
8 returns to a livestock predation site.

9 (b) Under the pilot program, an owner, the owner's immediate
10 family member, the agent of an owner, or the owner's documented
11 employee may monitor the site of a wolf predation of livestock and
12 take the first wolf that returns to the site of the predation. Any
13 wolf killed under the authority of this section must be reported to
14 the department of fish and wildlife within 24 hours and the wolf
15 carcass must be surrendered to the department of fish and wildlife.

16 (2) The department of fish and wildlife must report back to the
17 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2027,
18 regarding the pilot program created in this section.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.15.120 and 2014 c 48 s 5 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

1 (1) A person is guilty of unlawful taking of endangered fish or
2 wildlife in the second degree if:

3 (a) The person hunts for, fishes for, possesses, maliciously
4 harasses, or kills fish or wildlife, or possesses or intentionally
5 destroys the nests or eggs of fish or wildlife;

6 (b) The fish or wildlife is designated by the commission as
7 endangered; and

8 (c) The taking of the fish or wildlife or the destruction of the
9 nests or eggs is not consistent with section 1 of this act or has not
10 been authorized by rule of the commission, a permit issued by the
11 department, or a permit issued pursuant to the federal endangered
12 species act.

13 (2) A person is guilty of unlawful taking of endangered fish or
14 wildlife in the first degree if (~~the person has been~~):

15 (a) (~~Convicted~~) The person has been convicted under subsection
16 (1) of this section or convicted of any crime under this title
17 involving the taking, possessing, or malicious harassment of
18 endangered fish or wildlife; and

19 (b) Within five years of the date of the prior conviction, the
20 person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section.

21 (3)(a) Unlawful taking of endangered fish or wildlife in the
22 second degree is a gross misdemeanor.

23 (b) Unlawful taking of endangered fish or wildlife in the first
24 degree is a class C felony. The department shall revoke any licenses
25 or tags used in connection with the crime and order the person's
26 privileges to hunt, fish, trap, or obtain licenses under this title
27 to be suspended for two years.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2028.

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