

Senate Workplan Summary – 2011 Interim

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee

PROJECT: Protection of Water Quality and Livestock Operations

COMPLETION DATE: December 2011 **STAFF:** Bob Lee

REFERENCES: 2ESHB 1087 -Sec. 312, SSB 5723

DESCRIPTION: Efforts are ongoing to determine and address the source of contamination that result in temporary closures of shellfish beds because of elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria in waters flowing into coastal estuaries. Among the potential sources of contamination are septic tanks, recreational users, commercial and non-commercial livestock operations, waterfowl, marine mammals, and upland wildlife. In the Samish River watershed, the Puget Sound Partnership is collaborating with state and local governments, oyster growers, landowners, and livestock owners to achieve a reduction in the level of fecal coliform to significantly reduce the number of days that shellfish beds are closed.

The committee will monitor the activities of the Clean Samish Initiative, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the work assigned to the directors of the Department of Ecology, Conservation Commission, and the Department of Agriculture to address this issue.

Senate Natural Resources & Marine Waters Committee

PROJECT: Discover Pass Implementation and Revenue

COMPLETION DATE: December 2011 **STAFF:** Sherry McNamara

REFERENCES: 2SSB 5622 (2011)

DESCRIPTION: During the 2011 session, the Legislature passed 2SSB 5622, which required an annual pass or day-use permit for access to state lands and sites managed by the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife and the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Staff will track and monitor the implementation of the 2SSB 5622, and the revenue from the sale of the Discover Pass and day-use permit; and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

Senate Natural Resources & Marine Waters Committee Cont.

PROJECT: The Incentives to Promote Recreational Access to Private Land

COMPLETION DATE: December 2011 **STAFF:** Sherry McNamara

REFERENCES: SB 5388 (2011), SB 5062 (2009), SB 5067 (2009)

DESCRIPTION: Recreational and tourism-related activities, including public access to private lands for camping, picnicking, canoeing, viewing wildlife and scenery, boating, hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling are of benefit to Washington citizens and the state economy. Providing incentives for this access to private land has been the subject of recent bills, and could be an effective tool for enhancing public access opportunities.

Staff will research and explore potential incentives to private landowners who provide public access to their properties for recreational and tourism-related activities; and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

PROJECT: Natural Resources and Environmental Permit Processing

COMPLETION DATE: December 2011 **STAFF:** Curt Gavigan

REFERENCES: SB 5158 (2011), 2SSB 5360 (2011), SSB 5266 (2011), SSB 5862 (2011), HB 1562 (2011), 2SHB 1662 (2011)

DESCRIPTION: A number of state agencies, including the Departments of Ecology, Natural Resources, and Fish & Wildlife, administer regulatory permits for projects that may affect natural resources and the environment. Local governments and federal agencies also administer relevant permits. A person seeking to conduct a project may have to apply for multiple permits from multiple agencies, each with different application timelines and processes. In recent sessions, the Legislature has considered bills relating to natural resources and environmental permit processing, including proposals relating to interagency coordination and the development of resources that could enhance process efficiency.

Staff will review natural resources and environmental permit processes under current law; review and analyze relevant permitting process options, including proposals relating to multi-agency permitting, Internet-based permitting, and incentives to enhance permitting efficiency; and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

Senate Natural Resources & Marine Waters Committee Cont.

PROJECT: Natural Resources Agency Administration and Back-Office Function
Consolidation

COMPLETION DATE: December 2011 **STAFF:** Curt Gavigan

REFERENCES: E2SSB 5669 (2011)

DESCRIPTION: During the 2011 session, the Legislature considered E2SSB 5669 which, among other things, established a process directing state natural resources agencies to conduct certain actions involving the consolidation of administrative regions, services, and functions. E2SSB 5669 was not enacted by the Legislature in 2011. However, the Senate Statewide Summary and Agency Detail for the 2011-2013 Omnibus Operating Budget indicates that reductions to certain natural resources agencies are associated with anticipated administrative consolidation and collocation activities.

Staff will monitor relevant budget implementation activities by natural resources agencies and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

House of Representatives Workplan Summary -Interim 2011

House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Support for Fish and Wildlife Management Research

Project Goal: Develop legislation allowing for voluntary donations to support fish and wildlife research.

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Description: Sound management of fish and wildlife requires reliable, credible research in the fish and wildlife management sciences. This research can be the critical underpinnings of state management decisions; however, funding for the desired research is not always readily available.

The Committee will explore legislative options for the development of a program that supports the collection of voluntary donations that can be used to support fish and wildlife management research through private sector retail operations. Development of the supporting legislation may require the identification of barriers to private retail stores being willing and able to collect donations at the time of customer purchases, impacts on the bookkeeping and tax ramifications from participating retail stores, and processes by which the money can be collected and allocated for targeted research through a non-governmental process.

House of Representatives

Committee on General Government Appropriations & Oversight

Project Title: State Parks and Recreation Commission: Update on the Discover Pass Revenue

Project Goal: Update the Committee on funding for the State Parks and Recreation Commission and the impact of the Discover Pass Program.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

Project Description: Chapter 320, Laws of 2011 (2SSB 5622) creates the \$30 annual Discover Pass and the \$10 Day-Use Permit and requires these permits to be visible in any vehicle located at state recreational sites or recreation lands managed by State Parks, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proceeds from fees will support the maintenance and operation of state recreational lands, and are assumed to raise \$71 million during the 2011-13 biennium. The Committee will be updated on the implementation of the Program and on revenue projections.