
HOUSE BILL 1404

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Blake

1 AN ACT Relating to a comprehensive study of human-caused impacts
2 to streambeds; creating a new section; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife,
6 in consultation with the department of ecology and the department of
7 natural resources, is directed to conduct a scientific literature
8 review of the impacts to the beds of Washington's rivers and streams
9 resulting from human-caused sources of disturbance. The literature
10 review must include a comparison of the effects of human-caused
11 disturbances on the aquatic ecosystem in the types of rivers and
12 streams where those disturbances typically occur.

13 (2) The literature review must address, at a minimum, the
14 following sources of human-caused disturbance:

15 (a) Mining and prospecting activities, including motorized
16 suction dredge mining;

17 (b) Watercraft operations, including wash generated by motorized
18 watercraft, including propeller-powered watercraft and jet-powered
19 watercraft, and anchoring; and

20 (c) Construction and operation of diversion dams.

1 (3) The literature review must address, at a minimum, potential
2 impacts to the following elements of the aquatic ecosystem:

3 (a) Bedload mobilization, including sediment distribution and
4 recruiting and retention of spawning gravels;

5 (b) Water quality; and

6 (c) Fish life and fish habitat.

7 (4) The department of ecology is directed to coordinate with the
8 Washington state academy of sciences to assemble a peer review panel
9 to develop methods for and consider the results of the literature
10 review. The peer review panel shall, at a minimum:

11 (a) Recommend refinements to the scope and methods of the
12 literature review and comparison of effects;

13 (b) Conduct a peer review of the literature review and provide
14 edits to the department of ecology to improve the literature review;

15 (c) Compare and contrast the effects of the reviewed disturbances
16 based on the literature review; and

17 (d) Identify any remaining uncertainties regarding the risks
18 these activities pose to the natural resources of the state.

19 (5) A report that includes the Washington state academy of
20 science's consideration of the literature review and comparison of
21 the effects of the reviewed human-caused disturbances, must be
22 completed by June 30, 2020, and submitted in accordance with RCW
23 43.01.036 to the standing committees of the house of representatives
24 and the senate with jurisdiction over water quality and fisheries.

25 (6) This section expires June 30, 2020.

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