
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1972

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Dunshee, Blake, and Williams)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to accessing land for outdoor recreation; amending
2 RCW 77.32.380 and 77.12.880; creating a new section; and repealing RCW
3 77.12.065.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.380 and 2003 c 317 s 4 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1)(a) Persons who enter upon or use clearly identified department
8 improved access facilities with a motor vehicle may be required, while
9 within or while using an improved access facility, to display ((~~a~~
10 ~~current annual fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit~~)) on the
11 motor vehicle ((~~while within or while using an improved access~~
12 ~~facility~~)) one of the following:

13 (i) A current annual fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit as
14 provided in this section;

15 (ii) A wild on Washington, endangered wildlife, or Washington's
16 wildlife special license plate as authorized in chapter 46.16 RCW; or

17 (iii) A personalized license plate as defined in RCW 46.16.560.

18 ((~~An~~)) (b) As used in this section, "improved access facility"
19 ((~~is~~)) means a clearly identified area specifically created for motor

1 vehicle parking, and includes any boat launch or boat ramp associated
2 with the parking area, but does not include the department parking
3 facilities at the Gorge Concert Center near George, Washington.

4 (2)(a) One vehicle use permit shall be issued at no charge with an
5 initial purchase of either an annual saltwater, freshwater,
6 combination, small game hunting, big game hunting, or trapping license,
7 or a watchable wildlife decal, issued by the department.

8 (b) The annual fee for a fish and wildlife lands vehicle use
9 permit, if purchased separately, is ~~((ten dollars))~~:

10 (i) Twenty dollars beginning on the effective date of this section;

11 (ii) Twenty-five dollars beginning July 2, 2011; and

12 (iii) Thirty dollars beginning July 1, 2013.

13 (c) A person to whom the department has issued a vehicle use permit
14 or who has purchased a vehicle use permit separately may purchase
15 additional vehicle use permits from the department at a cost of
16 ~~((five))~~ ten dollars per vehicle use permit.

17 (d) Revenue derived from the sale of fish and wildlife lands
18 vehicle use permits shall be used solely for the following purposes:

19 (i) Stewardship and maintenance of department improved access
20 facilities; and

21 (ii) Maintenance and tangible physical improvements to land managed
22 by the department, such as fence construction and upkeep, weed control,
23 road maintenance, and restoration projects.

24 (e) The revenue collected under this section may not be used by the
25 department for administrative, scientific, or enforcement purposes.

26 (3) Youth groups may use department improved access facilities
27 without possessing a vehicle use permit when accompanied by a vehicle
28 use permit holder.

29 ~~((+2))~~ (4) The vehicle use permit must be displayed from the
30 interior of the motor vehicle so that it is clearly visible from
31 outside of the motor vehicle before entering upon or using the motor
32 vehicle on a department improved access facility. The vehicle use
33 permit can be transferred between two vehicles and must contain space
34 for the vehicle license numbers of each vehicle.

35 ~~((+3))~~ (5)(a) Failure to display the fish and wildlife lands
36 vehicle use permit or applicable license plate type, if required by
37 this section, is ~~((an))~~ a natural resources infraction under chapter
38 7.84 RCW, and department employees are authorized to issue a notice of

1 infraction to the registered owner of any motor vehicle entering upon
2 or using a department improved access facility (~~((without such a vehicle~~
3 ~~use permit))~~) in violation of this section.

4 (b) The penalty for (~~((failure to clearly display the vehicle use~~
5 ~~permit))~~) a violation of this section is sixty-six dollars. This
6 penalty (~~((is))~~) must be reduced to thirty dollars if the registered
7 owner provides proof to the court that he or she purchased a vehicle
8 use permit within fifteen days after the issuance of the notice of
9 violation.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.880 and 2003 c 153 s 3 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that
13 provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and supports nature-
14 based and wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's
15 wildlife resources.

16 (2)(a) The department may develop information accessible through
17 the department's internet web site that promotes outdoor recreational
18 and wildlife viewing opportunities. The web-based information may
19 include, but is not limited to, information about:

20 (i) The department's wildlife areas and access sites;

21 (ii) Public and private lands open to the public for recreational
22 access; and

23 (iii) Information promoting watchable wildlife and nature-based
24 tourism activities.

25 (b) The department may require, as a condition of accessing the
26 web-based information authorized in this section, the purchase of
27 certain recreational license documents provided for in chapter 77.32
28 RCW, including the fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit issued
29 under RCW 77.32.380. The commission may identify by rule which
30 recreational license documents provide access to the web-based
31 information.

32 (c) Information relating to hunting and fishing regulations, as
33 well as general information pertaining to the department, must be
34 accessible to the general public without having to first purchase a
35 license from the department.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) This act applies prospectively only.
2 However, the department of fish and wildlife may limit web-based access
3 under section 2 of this act to information relating to outdoor
4 recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities collected prior to the
5 effective date of this section.

6 (2) The privilege of accessing information under section 2 of this
7 act applies only to the convenience of instantaneous access via the
8 department's internet web site. Nothing in this act is intended to
9 limit the public's ability to otherwise access information under
10 chapter 42.56 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 77.12.065 (Wildlife viewing tourism) and
12 2003 c 183 s 1 are each repealed.

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