
HOUSE BILL 2082

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Walsh and Chandler

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing ecosystem services through riparian-
2 oriented agroforestry; adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 76.09 RCW; creating a new section;
4 and providing expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the
7 societal and ecological benefits of riparian-oriented agroforestry
8 are many, and include both the protection of clean, cold water for
9 the state's salmon runs and the natural carbon storage potential of
10 growing trees. At the same time, there may be many current or former
11 agricultural lands that, for a variety of reasons, are lying fallow
12 or underutilized. The legislature recognizes that this confluence of
13 factors provides a unique opportunity to harness the power of
14 riparian-oriented agroforestry to simultaneously improve salmon
15 populations and help to meet the state's climate goals through carbon
16 sequestration. Accordingly, it is the intent of the legislature to
17 establish a pilot initiative in which the University of Washington
18 and Washington State University, in collaboration with the department
19 of commerce, work with private landowners to identify and select
20 appropriate riparian-proximate lands on which to carry out a program

1 of planting trees for the dual purposes of sequestering carbon and
2 providing shade to salmon-bearing water bodies.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The University of Washington, through its school of aquatic
6 and fishery science, its school of environmental and forest sciences,
7 and its climate impacts group, and Washington State University,
8 through its cooperative extension, together with the department of
9 commerce, shall launch a pilot initiative aimed at promoting the
10 planting of trees in western Washington for the dual purposes of
11 sequestering carbon and increasing the shade canopy in order to
12 provide cooler water temperatures for salmonids. The initiative must
13 focus on fallow and otherwise underutilized current and former
14 agricultural lands that are proximate to current and former salmon-
15 bearing water bodies.

16 (2) The initiative required by this section must be developed in
17 an attempt to achieve the following goals:

18 (a) Demonstrate the capacity for increased tree plantings outside
19 of current forestlands in and around the riparian and anadromous
20 zones to reduce stream temperatures and increase salmonid survival;

21 (b) Establish the carbon sequestration benefits of agroforestry
22 in otherwise fallow or underutilized lands; and

23 (c) Establish a model for a revenue stream to landowners.

24 (3) The initiative required by this section may include any of
25 the following efforts:

26 (a) Formal surveys of available, unused, or underused
27 agricultural land located in western Washington that could be brought
28 into riparian-oriented agroforestry production;

29 (b) Identification of and outreach to private landowners who wish
30 to participate in the pilot initiative; and

31 (c) Selecting, planting, tending, and monitoring a variety of
32 tree species in a variety of site locations in order to yield useful
33 data concerning impacts to stream health, salmonid survival, and
34 carbon sequestration.

35 (4) As part of the pilot initiative, the University of
36 Washington, Washington State University, and the department of
37 commerce must produce a periodically updated study that addresses, at
38 a minimum, the following:

1 (a) Changes in stream health as a result of the pilot initiative,
2 including temperature, suspended sediments and turbidity, water
3 quality, habitat, and nutrient availability;

4 (b) The impact of differing site characteristics on tree growth
5 and carbon sequestration rates, including soil types, elevation,
6 aspect, and precipitation; and

7 (c) The amount of carbon sequestered under the pilot initiative,
8 including per site, per acre, per year, across different soil types
9 and tree species, and across different growth stages.

10 (5) In order to advance the significant social and ecological
11 values that accrue to the state as a result of carbon sequestration
12 and cooler water temperatures for salmon, the department of commerce
13 shall compensate participating landowners with a carbon sequestration
14 fee of ten dollars per verified ton of carbon sequestered.

15 (6) The department of commerce must, consistent with RCW
16 43.01.036, report to the legislature by October 31, 2020, and every
17 two years thereafter, on the efforts undertaken to implement the
18 initiative required by this section and any results available
19 regarding progress towards accomplishing the initiative's goals. The
20 report must include the elements set forth in subsection (4) of this
21 section.

22 (7) The legislature intends to continue the pilot initiative
23 through June 30, 2039, and to appropriate such sums as may be
24 necessary during that time to fund the initiative.

25 (8) This section expires June 30, 2039.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 76.09
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) This chapter does not apply to the planting, tending,
29 thinning, and harvesting of trees by participants in the riparian-
30 oriented agroforestry pilot initiative established in section 2 of
31 this act.

32 (2) This section expires June 30, 2039.

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