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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2424**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      68th Legislature                      2024 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture and Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Lekanoff, Springer, Schmick, Dent, and Chapman)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1            AN ACT Relating to updating cooperative agreements between the  
2 state and federally recognized tribes for the successful  
3 collaborative management of Washington's wildlife resources; and  
4 creating new sections.

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

6            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        (1) The legislature finds that the  
7 Washington state department of fish and wildlife has entered into  
8 cooperative agreements with various tribal governments in the state,  
9 including the confederated tribes of the Colville reservation, to  
10 work on a government-to-government basis to collaboratively manage  
11 the state's fish and wildlife. The legislature further finds that the  
12 cooperative agreement between the confederated tribes of the Colville  
13 reservation and the Washington state department of fish and wildlife,  
14 as ratified by the fish and wildlife commission representing the  
15 state in the government-to-government cooperative process, addresses  
16 cooperative wildlife management on a portion of land ceded to the  
17 United States by the Colville tribes, often referred to as "the north  
18 half." The cooperative agreement recognizes that resource protection,  
19 tribal rights, and recreational opportunities of the general public  
20 are maximized through cooperative management of wildlife and habitats  
21 on the north half. The cooperative agreement provides that the

1 department and the tribe will work together to protect, preserve, and  
2 enhance wildlife populations on the reservation and the north half  
3 through: Joint and cooperative surveying of wildlife populations,  
4 sharing population and harvest statistics, and development of a joint  
5 wildlife habitat protection and enhancement strategy. The agreement  
6 further provides that the department and tribe will work together to  
7 develop protocols and provide solutions for managing dangerous  
8 wildlife and/or wildlife depredation and will work cooperatively to  
9 reduce violations of state and tribal fish and game laws including  
10 procedures for joint patrols and investigations. The legislature  
11 finds that the department of fish and wildlife has broad authority  
12 under the cooperative agreement to work cooperatively with the  
13 Colville tribes. The cooperative agreement established the policy  
14 committee, which is composed of representatives of the tribe and the  
15 department, to facilitate cooperative action and resolve disputes  
16 that may arise under the agreement. The agreement stipulates that the  
17 policy committee review the agreement annually and recommend  
18 modifications as to which the parties may mutually agree pursuant to  
19 approval by the confederated tribes and ratification by the  
20 commission in the government-to-government process.

21 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to affirm the goals and  
22 provisions established in the 1998 cooperative agreement between the  
23 department and the confederated tribes of the Colville Indian  
24 Reservation, and to direct the department to review and recommend  
25 modifications as necessary to the policies and practices implemented  
26 under the cooperative agreement, including management of the gray  
27 wolf in the "north half."

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department shall, upon approval of  
29 a plan of engagement by the commission that includes elements in  
30 subsection (2) of this section to be considered in the engagement,  
31 engage on a government-to-government basis with the confederated  
32 tribes of the Colville reservation for the purpose of identifying  
33 potential updates to management practices under, and recommended  
34 modifications to the 1998 cooperative fish and wildlife management  
35 agreement.

36 (2) The department must submit the agreed upon recommendations  
37 for updates or modifications to the agreement to the commission for  
38 their approval that identifies:

1 (a) Recommended updates or modifications to existing management  
2 strategies;

3 (b) Recommended updates or modifications to the "Wildlife  
4 Protection and Preservation" section of the cooperative agreement;

5 (c) Challenges to implementing the "Problem Wildlife" section of  
6 the cooperative agreement and recommended protocols to provide  
7 solutions for landowners with problems involving either dangerous  
8 wildlife or wildlife depredation, or both; and

9 (d) Recommendations for management of gray wolf and other species  
10 listed under the state endangered species act since adoption of the  
11 1998 agreement as practiced by the tribe and the department.

12 (3) Subsequent to approval by the confederated tribes of the  
13 Colville and ratification by the commission, the department must  
14 report to the legislature, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, on  
15 updates to or modifications to the 1998 cooperative fish and wildlife  
16 management agreement.

17 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
18 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

19 (a) "Commission" means the Washington state fish and wildlife  
20 commission.

21 (b) "Department" means the Washington state department of fish  
22 and wildlife.

23 (c) "The north half" means the portion of land that was  
24 originally part of the Colville Indian reservation that the tribes  
25 ceded to the federal government in 1892.

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