



The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission currently has the authority to manage Department-managed lands, including more than 1 million acres, which includes 33 wildlife areas with diverse conservation values and recreation opportunities, and 450+ water access areas providing access to 220 lakes, 50 streams, and inland and coastal marine waters.

This proposal would give the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) express authority to manage conservation and recreation areas, water access areas, and trails in conjunction with any other public agency, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, or volunteer organizations for the benefit of WDFW-managed lands. Potential projects facilitated by this proposal include hiking trail and camp site improvements and restoration of sensitive habitats damaged by wildfire or heavy use.

The proposal mirrors a Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) statute that focuses on using nonprofits and volunteer groups to work on DNR-managed lands through collective agreements. The exemption from public bid will expedite and enhance our lands maintenance. Volunteers from nonprofits or other organizations will not be considered employees or agents of the Department, and the Department will not be subject to any liability arising out of these projects.

This proposal will engage nonprofit partners to leverage the state's investments in Department-managed lands and enhance visitors' experiences at WDFW wildlife areas and water access areas.

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