

2025 Legislative Session Agency Request Proposals

Tom McBride, Legislative Director
August 9, 2024



Agency Request Proposals

1. Increase the renewal fee for personalized license plates – dedicated to nongame species preservation.
2. Increased efficacy of enforcement for fish and wildlife violations.



PLP renewal fee

Personalized license plate fees are \$52 initial and \$42 renewal. Directed use:

- Management tied to nonconsumptive use of wildlife (\$10).
- Wildlife rehabilitation (\$2).
- Protection of nongame, unclassified, and protected species/habitats (remainder).



PLP renewal fee

There is stable continuation/renewal for the current fee amounts.

Our belief is that raising the renewal fee to match the initial fee will not reduce continuation/renewal.

Estimated revenue is \$1.6M (biennium).



F&W Enforcement

Various changes, including:

1. Allowing some current crimes to be handled as infractions (e.g.)
2. Includes infractions addressing big game, general hunting, hydraulic and guide licensing.
3. Guides and charters liable for knowingly allowing client violations.



F&W Enforcement

Big game hunting:

(a) A person engages in an activity defined by chapter 77.32 RCW while having purchased but not having in the person's possession the hunting license or tag required by that chapter for big game.

(b) Hunting the big game species of deer, elk, bear, or cougar and the person violates any department rule regarding seasons, closed areas, closed times, or any other department rule defining the method or manner of hunting or taking these big game species. This subsection (6) (b) does not apply to protected, threatened, or endangered big game as identified under RCW 77.12.020.

(c) A violation of this subsection carries a mandatory fine of \$500, not including statutory assessments added pursuant to RCW 3.62.090.



F&W Enforcement

General hunting:

(a) A person carries, transports, conveys, possesses, or controls a rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, except as allowed by department rule, and the rifle or shotgun contains live shells or cartridges in the attached or internal magazine.

(b) A person discharges a firearm from or across the maintained portion of a public highway.

(c) A person fails to properly notch a transport tag as required by department rule.



F&W Enforcement

Hydraulic activities:

(a) A person who operates a motor vehicle as defined in RCW 46.04.320 in the wetted portion of a streambed other than at an established ford.

(b) A person who, in violation of a department rule, constructs by hand, without the use of tools or equipment, a rock dam or similar structure that could impede the movement of fish life, as defined by department rule.

Department licensed guides:

(a) Failing to display department registration stickers as required by chapter 77.65 RCW or a department rule.

(b) Failing to initiate, complete, or submit guide logbooks as required by department rule.



F&W Enforcement

Fish and wildlife officers may issue an infraction for the corresponding violation to a person who is licensed as a fishing guide or charter boat operator who:

(1) Knowingly commits or aids in the commission of any recreational fishing department rule violation while engaged in guiding or chartering activities that could be charged as an infraction under RCW 77.15.160; or

(2) Permits the commission of any infraction under RCW 77.15.160 or corresponding recreational fishing department rule violation that the person knows or reasonably believes is being or will be committed without:

- (a) Attempting to prevent it, short of using force; and
- (b) Reporting the violation.



Questions?

