

2025 Bill List – Updated for June 2025

The following bills passed the Legislature during the 2025 legislative session. Program staff are working on implementation now.

Agency Request

1325 – Expanding enforcement options for certain fish and wildlife violations.

- Tackles low-level fish and wildlife violations by adding options for big game violations, limited firearm-use violations, minor hydraulic violations, and minor commercial guiding violations.
- Amends the definition of “bag limit” to include the maximum amount of food fish and shellfish a person may take, catch, kill, or possess as specified by FWC rule.

5444 – An omnibus license plate bill that included our agency request regarding renewal fees for personalized license plates.

- Increases the renewal fees for personalized license plates (PLP) by \$10 to \$52, revenue from PLPs is a primary source of funding for the management of non-game wildlife.

Fee-related Bills

2003 – Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead endorsement program.

- Re-establishes the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) for any person 15 years or older to fish recreationally for salmon or steelhead in the Columbia River and its tributaries.
- Effective January 1, 2026.

5390 – Access to recreation sites and lands (Discover Pass bill); increases the cost of a Discover Pass from \$30 to \$45.

- Increases the cost of a Discover Pass from \$30 to \$45.

- Changes the revenue threshold distribution for equal 1/3 distribution between the three agencies to \$81 million (previously set at \$71 million). Prior to meeting the \$81 million revenue threshold, the split will remain 8/8/84 (DFW/DNR/Parks).
- Requires the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to convene a work group to review how recreation and park functions are currently funded for State Parks, DFW, and DNR.

5583 – Recreational fishing and hunting licenses.

- Updates and modifies various provisions related to fishing and hunting licenses (many of the changes were proposed by the Department in agency request from 2019).
- Increases fees by 38%.
- Gives the Commission the authority to establish a surcharge to fund inflationary and other increased costs approved by the Legislature.
- Requires multiple WAC/Rule updates including some emergency rules for the July 1, 2025, effective date.
- The fee tables (big game, small game, and fishing) have been updated to reflect the changes made in the bill. The new tables will be effective July 1, 2025.

Other Bills

1163 – Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.

- Provides that a dealer may not transfer a firearm to a purchaser unless the person has a valid permit to purchase firearms.
- Establishes requirements for the application, issuance, and revocation of permits to purchase firearms.
- Requires proof of completion of required firearms safety training to obtain a permit to purchase firearms or a concealed pistol license – updates training program components and requires certification of training programs.

- Enforcement is excluded. Hunter Education and Conflict Specialists who need to purchase a work-related firearm in the future will need to meet these requirements.
- Effective May 1, 2027.

5076 – Establishing a Puget Sound nonspot shrimp pot fishery license.

- Establishes a limited entry non-spot shrimp pot Puget Sound commercial fishing license and limits entry to current holders of shrimp trawl Puget Sound fishery licenses who voluntarily convert their license.

5165 – Compensation in frontier counties for deer and elk damage.

- Requires 20% of available funds for damage caused to commercial crops by deer and elk to be available for claims arising from frontier one counties. If the value of claims submitted from frontier one counties is insufficient to meet that requirement, the remaining available funds may be awarded to any eligible claimant.

5303 – Extending the water supply milestone for the Yakima river basin integrated plan to 2035.

- Extends the milestone by 10 years to 2035.
- The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) is tied to the authorization/funding for the land acquisition that created the Teanaway Community Forest. Without the extension, the community forest would have been at risk as DNR would have needed to decide whether to retain it, convert it to trust land, or sell it.

5343 – Northeast Washington wolf-livestock management account

- Clarifies that expenditures from the Northeast Washington Wolf-Livestock Management Account may be used only for the deployment of nonlethal wolf deterrence resources, wolf-livestock management, and grants to the sheriffs' offices of Stevens and Ferry counties for providing a local wildlife specialist to aid DFW in the management of wolves.
- This is an account under Agriculture's budget.
- The local wildlife specialists are currently in place – this bill codified current practices between DFW and AG.