

2025 Legislative Session Proposals under consideration

Tom McBride, Legislative Director
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Possible Agency Policy Requests

1. Increase the renewal fee for personalized license plates – dedicated to nongame species preservation.
2. Amending SRKW vessel regulations consistent with November 2024 report.
3. Increased efficacy of enforcement for fish and wildlife violations.



Multi-year efforts

1. Explore strengthening the recreational immunity statute in light of recent court decisions.
2. Discuss broadly fee increases and periodic inflationary increases to hunting and fishing licenses.



PLP renewal fee

Personalized license plate fees are \$52 initial and \$42 renewal - directed to:

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).



Whale watching rules

An adaptive management report on the whale watching restrictions is due on November 30, 2024.

WDFW is proposing several statutory amendments – the three main ones are:



Whale watching rules

1. Eliminate the language directing WDFW to create a permit exception to the distance restrictions.
2. Eliminate ban of enforcing the 400-yard restriction if motor disengaged – should be discretionary.
3. Remove some voluntary incident log language that confuses immediate reporting of whale location.



F&W Enforcement

1. Guides liable for knowingly allowing client violations.
2. Allowing some crimes to be handled as infractions (e.g.)
3. Driving across wetted streams other than established ford.
4. Express authority to stop vehicles and better define indicia of hunting.



Public Lands Access and Liability

Priority to maintain and increase public access to lands (public and private).

Recent court cases have reduced liability protection provided landowners who open their lands to the public for free.

Request a legislative study to report back in December 2025.



License fee issues

Hunting and Fishing licenses have not been increased since 2011.

Licensing revenue for game and season management does not have any regular increase or inflationary adjustment.



Questions?

