

# Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

<b>Bill Number:</b> 1698 S HB	<b>Title:</b> Gray wolf management
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## Estimated Cash Receipts

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of Attorney General	0	0	43,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of Attorney General	.2	0	0	43,000	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Fish and Wildlife	7.2	3,197,000	3,197,000	3,197,000	8.6	3,247,000	3,247,000	3,247,000	10.0	3,748,000	3,748,000	3,748,000
Department of Fish and Wildlife	In addition to the estimate above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see individual fiscal note.											
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>3,197,000</b>	<b>3,197,000</b>	<b>3,240,000</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>3,247,000</b>	<b>3,247,000</b>	<b>3,247,000</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>3,748,000</b>	<b>3,748,000</b>	<b>3,748,000</b>

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

## Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Office of Attorney General	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Fish and Wildlife	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

# Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

<b>Prepared by:</b> Matthew Hunter, OFM	<b>Phone:</b> (360) 529-7078	<b>Date Published:</b> Final 2/24/2023
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# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 1698 S HB	<b>Title:</b> Gray wolf management	<b>Agency:</b> 100-Office of Attorney General
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## Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

ACCOUNT	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Legal Services Revolving Account-State 405-1	43,000		43,000		
<b>Total \$</b>	43,000		43,000		

### Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

ACCOUNT	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Legal Services Revolving Account-State 405-1	43,000	0	43,000	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	43,000	0	43,000	0	0

### Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Dan Jones	Phone: 360-786-7118	Date: 02/17/2023
Agency Preparation: Cam Comfort	Phone: (360) 664-9429	Date: 02/23/2023
Agency Approval: Edd Giger	Phone: 360-586-2104	Date: 02/23/2023
OFM Review: Cheri Keller	Phone: (360) 584-2207	Date: 02/24/2023

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

Section 1: New section stating legislative findings and intent.

Section 2: New section added to RCW 36.01 requiring the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to manage the gray wolf within counties that meet certain criteria. When a county meets the criteria, it must enter into an inter-local agreement with DFW and any tribes within the jurisdiction to collaboratively co-manage the gray wolf in accordance with the regional plan developed pursuant to Section 3.

Section 3: New section added to RCW 77.36 to require DFW to form a work group to develop a regional plan for gray wolf management in a county or a portion of a county that meets the criteria in Section 2(2). The plan must be completed and implemented within six months.

### II. B - Cash receipts Impact

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

Cash receipts are assumed to equal the Legal Services Revolving Account (LSRA) cost estimates. These will be billed through the revolving account to the client agency.

The client agency is the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). The Attorney General's Office (AGO) will bill all clients for legal services rendered.

These cash receipts represent the AGO's authority to bill and are not a direct appropriation to the AGO. The direct appropriation is reflected in the client agency's fiscal note. Appropriation authority is necessary in the AGO budget.

#### AGO AGENCY ASSUMPTIONS:

DFW will be billed for non-Seattle rates:

FY 2024: \$43,000 for 0.16 Assistant Attorney General FTE (AAG), 0.08 Legal Assistant 3 FTE (LA) and 0.02 Paralegal FTE (PL).

### II. C - Expenditures

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

Attorney General's Office (AGO) Agency Assumptions:

This bill is assumed effective 90 days after the end of the 2023 legislative session.

Location of staffing is assumed to be in a non-Seattle office building.

Total workload impact in this request includes standard assumption costs for goods & services, travel, and capital outlays for all FTE identified.

Agency administration support FTE are included in the tables. The Management Analyst 5 (MA) is used as a representative classification. An example ratio is for every 1.0 Assistant Attorney General FTE (AAG), the AGO includes

0.5 FTE for a Legal Assistant 3 (LA) and 0.25 FTE of an MA.

Assumptions for the AGO Public Land and Conservation Division’s (PLC) legal services for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW):

The AGO will bill DFW for legal services based on the enactment of this bill.

PLC is assuming at least one lawsuit will be filed over the bill’s implementation, as wolf management issues tend to create conflict within different interest groups concerning wolf management.

Legal advice requirements concerning the new provision will be greatest in the first few months and continue for the first few FY of implementation, then taper off.

PLC assumes that the AAG time will be a mixture of legal advice concerning Section 2 criteria, one legal challenge to a management plan involving county co-management under Section 3.

FY 2024: 280 AAG hours, 40 Paralegal (PL) hours and 40 LA hours.

DFW: Total non-Seattle workload impact:  
 FY 2024: \$43,000 for 0.16 AAG, 0.08 LA and 0.02 PL.

**Part III: Expenditure Detail**

**III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures**

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
405-1	Legal Services	State	43,000	0	43,000	0	0
	Revolving Account						
<b>Total \$</b>			43,000	0	43,000	0	0

**III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.3		0.2		
A-Salaries and Wages	29,000		29,000		
B-Employee Benefits	9,000		9,000		
E-Goods and Other Services	5,000		5,000		
<b>Total \$</b>	43,000	0	43,000	0	0

**III. C - Operating FTE Detail:** *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Assistant Attorney General	118,700	0.2		0.1		
Legal Assistant 3	55,872	0.1		0.0		
Management Analyst 5	91,524	0.0		0.0		
Paralegal 2	71,520	0.0		0.0		
<b>Total FTEs</b>		0.3		0.2		0.0

**III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)**

Program	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Public Lands and Conservation Division (PLC)	43,000		43,000		
<b>Total \$</b>	43,000		43,000		

**Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**

**IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

**IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

**IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout**

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

**Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 1698 S HB	<b>Title:</b> Gray wolf management	<b>Agency:</b> 477-Department of Fish and Wildlife
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## Part I: Estimates

**No Fiscal Impact**

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

### Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	6.4	7.9	7.2	8.6	10.0
<b>Account</b>					
General Fund-State 001-1	1,559,000	1,638,000	3,197,000	3,247,000	3,748,000
<b>Total \$</b>	1,559,000	1,638,000	3,197,000	3,247,000	3,748,000

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

### Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Dan Jones	Phone: 360-786-7118	Date: 02/17/2023
Agency Preparation: Barbara Reichart	Phone: (360) 819-0438	Date: 02/23/2023
Agency Approval: Barbara Reichart	Phone: (360) 819-0438	Date: 02/23/2023
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/23/2023

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

CHANGE IN FISCAL IMPACT: SHB 1698 makes the following changes:

- Specifies that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) shall manage gray wolves as if they have been removed from state designation as endangered, rather than endangered or protected.
- Requires the WDFW to convene a workgroup and hire a third-party neutral facilitator for each work group, once a county notifies the WDFW that they have met the criteria to develop county management plans.
- Specifies the composition of the workgroup members and requires WDFW to invite affected tribes to participate and review drafts of the management plan before it is completed.
- Establishes minimum requirements that the management plan must address.
- Requires management plans to be completed within six months.
- Allows the workgroup to periodically revise the regional plan.

The changes above increase the fiscal impact of SHB 1698 for WDFW.

Section 2 creates criteria for WDFW to determine if a gray wolf population should be treated as if it has been removed from the state designation as endangered within any county where the gray wolf is not designated under the federal endangered species act as threatened or endangered in the county or portion of the county. In counties where the criteria are met, the county must provide notice to WDFW and enter into an interlocal agreement with WDFW and any tribes within the jurisdiction.

Section 3 requires WDFW to from a workgroup to develop and implement a regional plan for gray wolf management in the county or portion of the county that has attained the criteria within 6 months of receipt of notice from a county. The workgroup must include members of certain local organizations, county government, and a representative from a conservation nonprofit, and WDFW must invite affected tribes to participate and review drafts of the management plan before it is completed. The plan must address, at a minimum, the following objectives: increased cooperation with input from county governments, cattlemen associations, and local organizations providing range riding and other conflict deterrence efforts with respect to the methods and approaches to minimizing impacts to livestock production; minimization of livestock loss and economically costly stress on livestock and minimizing the need for lethal control of wolves; improved responsiveness from the department on planning proactive deterrence for ranchers; faster response time from the department when lethal control is required; habitat improvement for ungulate populations; an improved livestock loss and damage compensation program; and maintaining recovery objectives and an overall stable wolf population in the region. Requires WDFW to hire an outside third-party neutral facilitator to ensure effective functioning of the work group. Allows the workgroup to periodically update the plan as conditions change. If the workgroup cannot reach agreement, a minority report must be included.

### II. B - Cash receipts Impact

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

### II. C - Expenditures

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

The change in criteria in Section 2 will require a rule making process to determine how the Commission will “manage the gray wolf as if it has been removed from state designation as endangered under RCW 77.12.020 within any county.” Rulemaking will require \$2,500 for a public hearing and \$1,500 for rule adoption in FY 2024.



Total costs for section 2 are \$5,000.

The costs below are related to the implementation of Section 3.

Within six months of receipt of notice that a county or portion of the county has attained the criteria, WDFW is required to complete and implement a regional plan for the county. The Department assumes that 6 counties will be eligible to begin the process in fiscal year 2024 due to location of current breeding pairs and 3 counties will be eligible in fiscal year 2025. Ongoing, WDFW assumes that one county will be eligible to begin the process starting in fiscal year 2026 and ongoing until full wolf recovery. WDFW assumes that will take at least 5 more years after fiscal year 2025.

#### DEVELOPMENT

WDFW will form a workgroup to develop a regional plan for gray wolf management in the county or portion of the county that meets specific minimum criteria. The Department shall complete the regional plan within six months and assumes that the plan will need to be revised periodically as conditions change. The workgroup will meet for a minimum of 6 times (three in-person/three virtual) per regional plan. All meetings involving multiple parties or decision making for wolf management will require the presence of a third-party neutral facilitator.

While the regional plan must be implemented in 6 months, the Department assumes that rulemaking and SEPA analysis may take additional time to finalize based on prior experience, current processes and required timelines for decision making. The Department assumes that all rulemaking and analyses will be complete in the fiscal year a county initiates the process in and that revisions to the initial regional plan may be required once rulemaking and SEPA processes are completed. We assume these revisions will be incorporated into the ongoing process.

Total costs for development per county per fiscal year:

- \$61,000 for 0.5 FTE Environmental Planner 4 to manage and coordinate with agency staff; lead the workgroup, including counties, tribes, and other stakeholders; write regional plans; ensure compliance with RCWs, WACs, and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); and develop memorandums of understanding, Object A and B.
- \$15,000 for 0.2 FTE Administrative Assistant 3 to coordinate and schedule meetings among all the parties, in-person and virtual meeting logistics (including arrangements for meeting venues, meals, etc.), facilitator arrangements and payments, handle reimbursements if necessary, and maintain correspondence with all parties, Object A and B.
- \$60,000 for a contractor who will facilitate non-biased, open public meetings for each region, tribal collaboration, facilitator travel, and rental of meeting rooms, Object C. This estimate is based on similar facilitation contracts.
- \$4,000 for Environmental Planner to travel to and from stakeholder meetings, Object G.
- Goods and services, Object E, includes \$6,000 per FTE, per year, for WDFW standard costs, which cover an average employee's supplies, communications, training, and subscription costs per year. An infrastructure and program support rate of 33.5% is included in Object T and is calculated based on WDFW's federally approved indirect rate.

#### IMPLEMENTATION AND ONGOING COSTS

WDFW assumes that the workgroup will meet at least 3 times a fiscal year ongoing to ensure compliance with the objectives, once before the grazing season, once during the grazing season, and once after the grazing season. All meetings will require the presence of a third-party neutral facilitator. Any revision processes will be incorporated into these ongoing meetings with the workgroup.

WDFW assumes that at least 50 percent of counties that have a regional plan will require an additional conflict specialist to improve the Department's responsiveness. The conflict specialist will work fulltime during the grazing season, approximately March to November (0.8 FTE per fiscal year).

Total implementation and ongoing costs per county per fiscal year will require at least:

- \$27,000 for 0.4 FTE Natural Resource Technician 2 (0.8 FTE \* 50 percent of counties requiring increased support = 0.4 FTE average per county) to increase responsiveness to proactive deterrence planning and implementation for ranchers, livestock depredation investigations, and other wolf-livestock interaction inquiries from ranchers and county governments, Object A and B.
- \$24,000 for 0.2 FTE Environmental Planner 4 to manage and coordinate with agency staff; implement the regional plans, monitor progress, engage stakeholders; periodically revise the plan; and ensure ongoing compliance with RCWs, WACs, and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Object A and B.
- \$7,000 for 0.1 FTE Administrative Assistant 3 to coordinate and schedule meetings among all the parties, in-person and virtual meeting logistics (including arrangements for meeting venues, meals, etc.), facilitator arrangements and payments, handle reimbursements if necessary, and maintain correspondence with all parties for ongoing plan implementation, adaptation, and updating the plan, Object A and B.
- \$30,000 for a contractor who will facilitate non-biased, open public meetings for each region, tribal collaboration, facilitator travel, and rental of meeting rooms, Object C. This estimate is based on similar facilitation contracts.
- \$1,200 for travel costs for the Natural Resource Technician 2 related to conflict incident response, follow-up public contacts and monitoring of recurrent conflict issues, fence repair, and other labor-intensive tasks handled by this position. This estimate is based on current travel costs for conflict specialists
- Goods and services, Object E, includes \$6,000 per FTE, per year, for WDFW standard costs, which cover an average employee's supplies, communications, training, and subscription costs per year. An infrastructure and program support rate of 33.5% is included in Object T and is calculated based on WDFW's federally approved indirect rate.

Additional ongoing costs to provide overall coordination and management beginning in fiscal year 2024:

- \$145,000 for 1.0 FTE WMS2 to manage and coordinate with the Director and Commission; oversee the planning processes; provide statewide policy expectations; ensure all regional plans and their implementation support statewide wolf recovery and sustainability goals; and supervise and manage staff, Object A and B.
- Goods and services, Object E, includes \$6,000 per FTE, per year, for WDFW standard costs, which cover an average employee's supplies, communications, training, and subscription costs per year. An infrastructure and program support rate of 33.5% is included in Object T and is calculated based on WDFW's federally approved indirect rate.

Finally, the bill requires the plan to include faster response time from the department when lethal control is required. WDFW may have new costs associated with contracting to conduct additional or faster lethal removal activities (e.g., a helicopter company that performs wildlife capture/removal operations). The Department also assumes that there may be litigation costs associated with any decision for lethal control, especially if using a contractor. WDFW cannot assume what, if any, additional lethal removal will happen as a result of this bill and these costs are indeterminate at this time.

In fiscal year 2024, WDFW assumes 6 counties will initiate the process, total costs for Section 3 will be \$1,554,000. Total costs in fiscal year 2024 will be \$1,559,000.

In fiscal year 2025, WDFW assumes 3 counties will initiate the process and 9 counties will need ongoing support, total costs for Section 3 will be \$1,638,000.

In fiscal year 2026, WDFW assumes 1 county will initiate the process and 10 counties will need ongoing support, total costs for Section 3 will be \$1,561,000.

In fiscal year 2027, WDFW assumes 1 county will initiate the process and 11 counties will need ongoing support, total costs for Section 3 will be \$1,686,000.

In fiscal year 2028, WDFW assumes 1 county will initiate the process and 12 counties will need ongoing support, total costs for Section 3 will be \$1,811,000.

In fiscal year 2029, WDFW assumes 1 county will initiate the process and 13 counties will need ongoing support, total costs for Section 3 will be \$1,937,000.

## Part III: Expenditure Detail

### III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	1,559,000	1,638,000	3,197,000	3,247,000	3,748,000
<b>Total \$</b>			1,559,000	1,638,000	3,197,000	3,247,000	3,748,000

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

### III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	6.4	7.9	7.2	8.6	10.0
A-Salaries and Wages	523,000	559,000	1,082,000	1,134,000	1,295,000
B-Employee Benefits	193,000	223,000	416,000	468,000	540,000
C-Professional Service Contracts	360,000	360,000	720,000	690,000	810,000
E-Goods and Other Services	70,000	67,000	137,000	110,000	128,000
G-Travel	22,000	18,000	40,000	30,000	35,000
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements	391,000	411,000	802,000	815,000	940,000
9-					
<b>Total \$</b>	1,559,000	1,638,000	3,197,000	3,247,000	3,748,000

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

### III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 3		1.8	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.4
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER 4		3.6	3.0	3.3	2.6	3.0
NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIAN 2			2.4	1.2	3.8	4.6
WMS2		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>Total FTEs</b>		6.4	7.9	7.2	8.6	10.0

### III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

## Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

### IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

### IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

### IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

## **Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

Yes, Section 2 may require rule making due to the ambiguity around what it means to “manage the gray wolf as if it has been removed from state designation as protected or endangered under RCW 77.12.020 within any county” This could potentially affect WACs 220-610-010, 220-400-020, and 220-610-110. Section 3 will also require rulemaking for each new regional plan

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

<b>Bill Number:</b> 1698 S HB	<b>Title:</b> Gray wolf management
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## Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

### Legislation Impacts:

- Cities: Municipal Police Departments
- Counties: Counties and County Sheriff's offices
- Special Districts:
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

## Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option:
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: The number of counties where the gray wolf no longer meets the criteria for state designation as protected or endangered in that county, and the amount of staff time required for local governments and law enforcement to collaborate with the Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) on management plans for gray wolves.

### Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

### Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

## Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Chelsea Mickel	Phone: 518-727-3478	Date: 02/21/2023
Leg. Committee Contact: Dan Jones	Phone: 360-786-7118	Date: 02/17/2023
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 02/21/2023
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/21/2023

## **Part IV: Analysis**

### **A. SUMMARY OF BILL**

*Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.*

#### **CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:**

The substitute bill specifies that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) shall manage gray wolves as if they have been removed from state designation as endangered, rather than protected or endangered, in areas that meet the same criteria established in the original bill.

The substitute bill requires the WDFW to convene a work group and hire a third-party neutral facilitator to develop a management plan for the county or portion of a county where the criteria have been met. The work group must include specified representatives, and the WDFW must complete and implement the plan within six months. If the work group does not reach agreement on the plan within six months, a minority report must be included.

The substitute bill establishes minimum requirements that the management plan must address.

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL:**

This bill establishes a procedure for the WDFW to manage gray wolves as if the species has been removed from state designation as endangered in counties when certain population criteria have been met.

It requires the WDFW to convene a workgroup to develop a regional management plan in areas where the population criteria have been met, and to complete and implement the plan within six months.

### **B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS**

*Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.*

#### **CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE IMPACTS BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:**

In comparison to the original version of the bill, the substitute bill would create additional expenditure impacts for local governments.

The substitute bill requires the WDFW to convene a work group and hire a third-party neutral facilitator to develop a management plan for the county or portion of a county where the criteria have been met. The work group must include representatives from affected tribes, county cattlemen organizations, county governments, a conservation nonprofit, and a regional nonprofit organization that operates range riding and other year-round wolf and livestock conflict avoidance tactics in Northeast Washington. County governments that participated in the work group would incur costs to attend meetings and review management plans. It is unknown whether work group meetings would be in-person meetings and require travel, or if meetings would be remote. Travel and meeting costs would vary depending on the number of local staff representatives attending, meeting location, distance traveled, the number and length of meetings, and the local per diem and hotel costs. Due to the uncertainties listed above, expenditure impacts introduced by the substitute bill would be indeterminate.

#### **EXPENDITURE IMPACTS OF CURRENT BILL:**

This bill would have indeterminate expenditure impacts on local governments.

This provisions of this bill would primarily impact counties in Northeast Washington, such as Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille, where the majority of gray wolves reside. However, there are areas in the North Cascades and the Southeast corner of the state that also have gray wolves. Counties that meet the criteria in Section 2 of the bill would incur costs notifying the WDFW, entering into an inter-local agreement with the WDFW, and collaborating with the WDFW and local law enforcement to develop management plans. Municipal law enforcement and county sheriffs in affected counties would incur costs collaborating with the WDFW and county governments on management plans and conflict management plans. Local law enforcement would also report problem wildlife incidents to the WDFW during the plans' development.

The average professional compensation at the local level is \$66 per hour, including benefits and overhead. Costs to local governments for collaboration with WDFW would depend upon the number of hours of staff time required for each affected local government. It is unknown whether the scope of local government collaboration would include in-person meetings and travel, or if collaboration would be mostly remote. Travel and meeting costs would vary depending on the number of local staff representatives attending, meeting location, distance traveled, the number and length of meetings, and the local per diem and hotel costs. It is also unknown how many counties would meet the conditions stated in Section 2 of the bill that would be required to collaborate with the WDFW in the management plan process. Due to the uncertainties listed above, the expenditure impacts on local governments is indeterminate.

### **C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS**

*Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.*

#### **CHANGES IN REVENUE IMPACTS BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:**

In comparison to the original version of the bill, the substitute bill would not change revenue impacts for local governments.

#### **REVENUE IMPACTS OF CURRENT BILL:**

This bill would not impact local government revenues.

#### **SOURCES**

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

House Bill Report, SHB 1698, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, (2023)

House Bill Analysis, HB 1698, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, (2023)

Local Government Fiscal Note, HB 1698, (2023)

Local Government Fiscal Note Program Unit Cost Model, (2023)

Revised Code of Washington, RCW 77.12.020; 36.01 RCW

Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2021 Annual Report, WDFW, (April 9, 2022)

Washington State Association of Counties