

2025 Legislative Session Agency Request Proposals

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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.



Multi-year efforts

1. Explore strengthening the recreational immunity statute in light of recent court decisions.
2. Discuss license fee increase and/or periodic inflationary increases with hunters and anglers.



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 increase in 2013

In 2013, the existing fees of \$42 and \$32 were each increased by \$10 - with a legislative discussion that the increase would be used for wolf management.

The original funding has not been increased in over a decade for the nonconsumptive and nongame statutory purposes.

The biodiversity package was built upon this base funding and the diversity division within the agency.



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. Guides liable for knowingly allowing client violations.
2. Allowing some current crimes to be handled as infractions (e.g.)
3. Driving across wetted streams other than established ford.
4. 24 hours to 72 hours for unlawful taking of 3 or more big game animals.



F&W Enforcement

It is an infraction for a person who is licensed as a fishing guide or charter boat operator to:

- (A)** Knowingly commit or aids in the commission of any infraction under RCW 77.15.160 or corresponding recreational fishing department rule violation; or
- (B)** permit 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:
 - (i)** attempting to prevent it, short of using force; and
 - (ii)** reporting the violation.



F&W Enforcement

Big Game Hunting Infractions – without take or possession:

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

(b) Hunting big game and the person violates any department rule regarding seasons, closed areas, closed times, or any other rule defining the method or manner of hunting or taking big game. This section does not apply to protected, threatened, or endangered big game (add RCW's for each violation not included).

General Hunting Infractions

(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 magazine*.

(b) A person discharges a firearm across or along 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 Infractions

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

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



Public Lands Access and Liability

Priority to maintain public access to lands

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

Start building a coalition with government and nongovernment partners for 2026.



License fee issues

Hunting and Fishing licenses have not been generally increased since 2011.

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



Questions?

