



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

SB XXXX | HB XXXX

DNR seeks a statute change to [RCW 4.24.210](#) as an important first step in responsibly and equitably meeting the growing demand for organized recreation in Washington.

The change would bring DNR in line with similar exemptions to other State Natural Resources Agencies.

CONTACT

Brian Considine

Legislative Director
Cell: 360-764-0013
brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov

Olgy Diaz

Deputy Legislative Director
Cell: 360-918-3555
olgy.diaz@dnr.wa.gov

Recreational Commercial Use Fees

A small fix to state statute could have a big impact on DNR's ability to manage recreation events on DNR-managed lands

DNR receives more than 100 organized recreation event permit applications annually for events on DNR-managed land. Events include competitive running and biking races, fundraisers, and outdoor education opportunities, and more. Currently, the agency needs authority to develop a consistent and transparent permitting system that ensures permittees adequately mitigate for the impacts of these events. More people are engaged in recreation activities on state lands and this bill helps DNR keep up with the growing demand to recreate on DNR-managed lands.



Increase Consistency: Permit denials have far-reaching effects for our partners and nearby communities. The current process is inconsistent due to the lack of investments in DNR programs and projects. This results in permit denials and missed opportunities for rural economic development in gateway communities, and, makes it difficult for partner organizations to plan for events across the state. This statutory change provides some parity with authorities given to other natural resources agencies and will allow DNR to permit and manage events consistently across the state while protecting our natural resources.

Improve Transparency: DNR's permitting structure can be difficult to navigate and cannot provide revenue to help cover the costs that would help build efficiencies and transparency to the process. This bill allows DNR to work with Tribes and stakeholders to develop a permit application process and fee structure that is acceptable and more transparent, without compromising our management of state lands or have the agency lose recreational immunity. This also allows DNR to recover costs of managing organized recreational events, including setting clear expectations up front for permittees, while making the permit process predictable and equitable for our current and future partners.

Reduce Impacts: Setting permit fees for recreational events is needed to manage high use recreation sites that require more management by staff—time and resources that are not offset by permit fees. Authorizing DNR to develop a fee structure under the recreational immunity statute ([RCW 4.24.210](#)) is critical to the agency's ability to better manage the growing demand for organized recreation. Providing DNR the legal standing to develop a fee structure would help us recoup management costs and improve outdoor experiences for all Washingtonians.

