

## **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5074**

*Dividing water resource inventory area (WRIA) 29 into WRIA 29a and WRIA 29b*

### **PROGRAM IMPACTS**

This bill splits Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 29 in half—creating WRIA 29a and WRIA 29b. Both WRIs are now eligible for watershed grant funding at amounts established in statute.

There will be some additional workload associated with this bill, both for our grant administrator and our regional watershed staff. The additional workload is not expected to be significant. It will be absorbed by existing staff to the extent they are able through reprioritization of their existing workload.

There will also be some fiscal impact, as described below. This too can be absorbed in our existing appropriation, by shifting funds from other watershed projects.

### **RESOURCE IMPACTS**

No new funds were provided to implement this bill. Funding will be provided by shifting funds from other watershed projects to support implementation of this bill.

Each half of WRIA 29 is eligible for a different amount of funding because each is in a different stage of planning. WRIA 29a, which has completed the first 3 phases of planning, is now eligible for only 50 percent of Phase 4 funding (a 50% reduction). WRIA 29b is eligible to begin planning at Phase 1 and is eligible for 50 percent of funding for all 4 phases. For WRIA 29a this amounts to \$50,000 per year for Phase 4 years 1 - 3, and \$25,000 per year for years 4 and 5, or a total of \$200,000. WRIA 29b is eligible for Phases 1 - 4, or up to \$600,000 total for all 4 phases. The net effect is an additional \$400,000 demand on the watershed budget over several biennia, which can be accommodated by shifting funds from other grants or projects.

No new FTEs were provided with this bill. Ecology will provide Headquarters and Regional staff support to the extent it is able by adjusting the workload of existing staff.

## **WORK PLAN**

We will not hire new staff or develop rules to implement this bill. Existing staff will absorb the additional workload associated with this bill and manage and prioritize their workload as appropriate. Depending on when locals apply for grant funds and how fast they spend the money, carrying out this bill may extend into or beyond the 2011- 2013 Biennium.

### **Contact(s):**

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