

SSB 5248 BILL EXCERPTS

As per the SSB 5248 legislation, the Ruckelshaus Center will*:

- Work with willing participants...and involve and apprise legislators and legislative staff.
- Conduct fact-finding and discussions with identified stakeholders...
- Identify stakeholder concerns, desired outcomes, opportunities and barriers...
- Identify existing regulatory, management, and scientific information related to critical areas including, but not limited to:
 - critical areas ordinances adopted under 36.70A RCW;
 - acreage enrolled in CREP;
 - acreage protected by conservation easements;
 - requirements of federally approved salmon recovery plans;
 - buffer widths;
 - the impact of agricultural activities on Puget Sound recovery efforts; and
 - compliance with water quality requirements.
- Issue two interim reports...to the governor and appropriate committees of the house and senate by December 1, 2007 and December 1, 2008.
- Facilitate discussions to identify policy and financial options or opportunities to address issues and desired outcomes identified in first phase.
- Examine innovative solutions, including, but not limited to, outcome-based approaches that incorporate to the maximum extent practicable, voluntary programs or approaches.
- Examine ways to modify existing statutory provisions to ensure that regulatory constraints on agricultural activities are used as a last resort if desired outcomes are not achieved through voluntary programs or approaches.
- Work to achieve agreement among participating stakeholders and to develop a coalition that can be used to support agreed upon changes or new approaches to protecting critical areas during the 2010 session.
- Issue a final report of findings and legislative recommendations to the governor and appropriate committees of the house and senate by September 1, 2009.

* *Excerpts paraphrased from SSB 5248 related to the stakeholder process.*