

adopted under RCW **19.27.540**.

(6) If federal funding for public investment in electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, or alternative fuel distribution infrastructure is not provided by February 1, 2010, subsection (1) of this section is null and void.

[2009 c 459 § 12.]

## NOTES:

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW **47.80.090**.

*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW **47.80.090**.*

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## 36.70A.700

### **Purpose—Intent—2011 c 360.**

(1) The purpose of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 is to establish the voluntary stewardship program as recommended in the report submitted by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to the legislature as required by chapter 353, Laws of 2007 and chapter 203, Laws of 2010.

(2) It is the intent of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 to:

(a) Promote plans to protect and enhance critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture in the state of Washington and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses;

(b) Focus and maximize voluntary incentive programs to encourage good riparian and ecosystem stewardship as an alternative to historic approaches used to protect critical areas;

(c) Rely upon RCW **36.70A.060** for the protection of critical areas for those counties that do not choose to participate in this program;

(d) Leverage existing resources by relying upon existing work and plans in counties and local watersheds, as well as existing state and federal programs to the maximum extent practicable to achieve program goals;

(e) Encourage and foster a spirit of cooperation and partnership among county, tribal, environmental, and agricultural interests to better assure the program success;

(f) Improve compliance with other laws designed to protect water quality and fish habitat; and

(g) Rely upon voluntary stewardship practices as the primary method of protecting critical areas and not require the cessation of agricultural activities.

[2011 c 360 § 1.]

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## 36.70A.702

### **Construction.**

Nothing in RCW **36.70A.700** through **36.70A.760** may be construed to:

(1) Interfere with or supplant the ability of any agricultural operator to work cooperatively with a conservation district or participate in state or federal conservation programs;

(2) Require an agricultural operator to discontinue agricultural activities legally existing before July 22, 2011;

(3) Prohibit the voluntary sale or leasing of land for conservation purposes, either in fee or as an easement;

(4) Grant counties or state agencies additional authority to regulate critical areas on lands used for agricultural activities; and

(5) Limit the authority of a state agency, local government, or landowner to carry out its obligations under any other federal, state, or local law.

[2011 c 360 § 15.]

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## **36.70A.703**

### **Definitions.**

The definitions in this section apply to RCW **36.70A.700** through **36.70A.760** and RCW **36.70A.130** and **36.70A.280** unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agricultural activities" means all agricultural uses and practices as defined in RCW **90.58.065**.

(2) "Commission" means the state conservation commission as defined in RCW **89.08.030**.

(3) "Director" means the executive director of the state conservation commission.

(4) "Enhance" or "enhancement" means to improve the processes, structure, and functions existing, as of July 22, 2011, of ecosystems and habitats associated with critical areas.

(5) "Participating watershed" means a watershed identified by a county under RCW **36.70A.710**(1) to participate in the program.

(6) "Priority watershed" means a geographic area nominated by the county and designated by the commission.

(7) "Program" means the voluntary stewardship program established in RCW **36.70A.705**.

(8) "Protect" or "protecting" means to prevent the degradation of functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011.

(9) "Receipt of funding" means the date a county takes legislative action accepting any funds as required in RCW **36.70A.715**(1) to implement the program.

(10) "Statewide advisory committee" means the statewide advisory committee created in RCW **36.70A.745**.

(11) "Technical panel" means the directors or director designees of the following agencies: The department of fish and wildlife; the department of agriculture; the department of ecology; and the commission.

(12) "Watershed" means a water resource inventory area, salmon recovery planning area, or a subbasin as determined by a county.

(13) "Watershed group" means an entity designated by a county under the provisions of RCW **36.70A.715**.

(14) "Work plan" means a watershed work plan developed under the provisions of RCW **36.70A.720**.

[2011 c 360 § 2.]

## 36.70A.705

### **Voluntary stewardship program established—Administered by commission—Agency participation.**

(1) The voluntary stewardship program is established to be administered by the commission. The program shall be designed to protect and enhance critical areas on lands used for agricultural activities through voluntary actions by agricultural operators.

(2) In administering the program, the commission must:

(a) Establish policies and procedures for implementing the program;

(b) Administer funding for counties to implement the program including, but not limited to, funding to develop strategies and incentive programs and to establish local guidelines for watershed stewardship programs;

(c) Administer the program's technical assistance funds and coordinate among state agencies and other entities for the implementation of the program;

(d) Establish a technical panel;

(e) In conjunction with the technical panel, review and evaluate: (i) Work plans submitted for approval under RCW **36.70A.720**(2)(a); and (ii) reports submitted under RCW **36.70A.720**(2)(b);

(f) Review and evaluate the program's success and effectiveness and make appropriate changes to policies and procedures for implementing the program, in consultation with the statewide advisory committee and other affected agencies;

(g) Designate priority watersheds based upon the recommendation of the statewide advisory committee. The commission and the statewide advisory committee may only consider watersheds nominated by counties under RCW **36.70A.710**. When designating priority watersheds, the commission and the statewide advisory committee shall consider the statewide significance of the criteria listed in RCW **36.70A.710**(3);

(h) Provide administrative support for the program's statewide advisory committee in its work. The administrative support must be in collaboration with the department of ecology and other agencies involved in the program;

(i) Maintain a web site about the program that includes times, locations, and agenda information for meetings of the statewide advisory committee;

(j) Report to the legislature on the general status of program implementation by December 1, 2013, and December 1, 2015;

(k) In conjunction with the statewide advisory committee, conduct a review of the program beginning in 2017 and every five years thereafter, and report its findings to the legislature by December 1st; and

(l) Report to the appropriate committees of the legislature in the format provided in RCW **43.01.036**.

(3) The department shall assist counties participating in the program to develop plans and development regulations under RCW **36.70A.735**(1).

(4) The commission, department, department of agriculture, department of fish and wildlife, department of ecology, and other state agencies as directed by the governor shall:

(a) Cooperate and collaborate to implement the program; and

(b) Develop materials to assist local watershed groups in development of work plans.

(5) State agencies conducting new monitoring to implement the program in a watershed must focus on the goals and benchmarks of the work plan.

[2011 c 360 § 3.]

## **36.70A.710**

### **Critical areas protection—Alternative to RCW 36.70A.060—County's responsibilities—Procedures.**

(1)(a) As an alternative to protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities through development regulations adopted under RCW **36.70A.060**, the legislative authority of a county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program.

(b) In order to participate in the program, within six months after July 22, 2011, the legislative authority of a county must adopt an ordinance or resolution that:

- (i) Elects to have the county participate in the program;
- (ii) Identifies the watersheds that will participate in the program; and
- (iii) Based on the criteria in subsection (4) of this section, nominates watersheds for consideration by the commission as state priority watersheds.

(2) Before adopting the ordinance or resolution under subsection (1) of this section, the county must (a) confer with tribes, and environmental and agricultural interests; and (b) provide notice following the public participation and notice provisions of RCW **36.70A.035** to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations.

(3) In identifying watersheds to participate in the program, a county must consider:

- (a) The role of farming within the watershed, including the number and acreage of farms, the economic value of crops and livestock, and the risk of the conversion of farmland;
- (b) The overall likelihood of completing a successful program in the watershed; and
- (c) Existing watershed programs, including those of other jurisdictions in which the watershed has territory.

(4) In identifying priority watersheds, a county must consider the following:

- (a) The role of farming within the watershed, including the number and acreage of farms, the economic value of crops and livestock, and the risk of the conversion of farmland;
- (b) The importance of salmonid resources in the watershed;
- (c) An evaluation of the biological diversity of wildlife species and their habitats in the geographic region including their significance and vulnerability;

(d) The presence of leadership within the watershed that is representative and inclusive of the interests in the watershed;

(e) Integration of regional watershed strategies, including the availability of a data and scientific review structure related to all types of critical areas;

(f) The presence of a local watershed group that is willing and capable of overseeing a successful program, and that has the operational structures to administer the program effectively, including professional technical assistance staff, and monitoring and adaptive management structures; and

(g) The overall likelihood of completing a successful program in the watershed.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (9) of this section, beginning with the effective date of the ordinance or resolution adopted under subsection (1) of this section, the program applies to all unincorporated property upon which agricultural activities occur within a participating watershed.

(6)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, within two years after July 22, 2011, a county must review and, if necessary, revise development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities:

(i) If the county has not elected to participate in the program, for all unincorporated areas; or

(ii) If the county has elected to participate in the program, for any watershed not participating in the program.

(b) A county that between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2007, in accordance with RCW **36.70A.130** completed the review of its development regulations as required by RCW **36.70A.130** to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities is not required to review and revise its development regulations until required by RCW **36.70A.130**.

(c) After the review and amendment required under (a) of this subsection, RCW **36.70A.130** applies to the subsequent review and amendment of development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities.

(7)(a) A county that has made the election under subsection (1) of this section may withdraw a participating watershed from the program by adopting an ordinance or resolution withdrawing the watershed from the program. A county may withdraw a watershed from the program at the end of three years, five years, or eight years after receipt of funding, or any time after ten years from receipt of funding.

(b) Within eighteen months after withdrawing a participating watershed from the program, the county must review and, if necessary, revise its development regulations that protect critical areas in that watershed as they specifically apply to agricultural activities. The development regulations must protect the critical area functions and values as they existed on July 22, 2011. RCW **36.70A.130** applies to the subsequent review and amendment of development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities.

(8) A county that has made the election under subsection (1) of this section is eligible for a share of the funding made available to implement the program, subject to funding availability from the state.

(9) A county that has made the election under subsection (1) of this section is not required to implement the program in a participating watershed until adequate funding for the program in that watershed is provided to the county.

[2011 c 360 § 4.]

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## **36.70A.715**

### **Funding by commission—County's duties—Watershed group established.**

(1) When the commission makes funds available to a county that has made the election provided in RCW **36.70A.710**(1), the county must within sixty days:

(a) Acknowledge the receipt of funds; and

(b) Designate a watershed group and an entity to administer funds for each watershed for which funding has been provided.

(2) A county must confer with tribes and interested stakeholders before designating or establishing a watershed group.

(3) The watershed group must include broad representation of key watershed stakeholders and, at a minimum, representatives of agricultural and environmental groups and tribes that agree to participate. The county should encourage existing lead entities, watershed planning units, or

other integrating organizations to serve as the watershed group.

(4) The county may designate itself, a tribe, or another entity to coordinate the local watershed group.

[2011 c 360 § 5.]

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## **36.70A.720**

### **Watershed group's duties—Work plan—Conditional priority funding.**

(1) A watershed group designated by a county under RCW **36.70A.715** must develop a work plan to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:

(a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;

(b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;

(c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks of the work plan;

(d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;

(e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the receipt of funding, are designed to result in (i) the protection of critical area functions and values and (ii) the enhancement of critical area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;

(f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical assistance;

(g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the work plan;

(h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;

(i) Establish baseline monitoring for: (i) Participation activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and projects; (ii) stewardship activities; and (iii) the effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protection and enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;

(j) Conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium;

(k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and

(l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.

(2)(a) The watershed group shall develop and submit the work plan to the director for approval as provided in RCW **36.70A.725**.

(b)(i) Not later than five years after the receipt of funding for a participating watershed, the watershed group must report to the director and the county on whether it has met the work plan's protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks.

(ii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have been met, and the director concurs under RCW **36.70A.730**, the watershed group shall continue to implement the work plan.

(iii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have not been met, it must propose and submit to the director an adaptive management plan to achieve the goals and benchmarks that were not met. If the director does not approve the adaptive management plan under RCW **36.70A.730**, the watershed is subject to RCW **36.70A.735**.

(iv) If the watershed group determines the enhancement goals and benchmarks have not been met, the watershed group must determine what additional voluntary actions are needed to meet the benchmarks, identify the funding necessary to implement these actions, and implement these actions when funding is provided.

(c)(i) Not later than ten years after receipt of funding for a participating watershed, and every five years thereafter, the watershed group must report to the director and the county on whether it has met the protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks of the work plan.

(ii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have been met, and the director concurs under RCW **36.70A.730**, the watershed group shall continue to implement the work plan.

(iii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have not been met, the watershed is subject to RCW **36.70A.735**.

(iv) If the watershed group determines the enhancement goals and benchmarks have not been met, the watershed group must determine what additional voluntary actions are needed to meet the benchmarks, identify the funding necessary to implement these actions, and implement these actions when funding is provided.

(3) Following approval of a work plan, a county or watershed group may request a state or federal agency to focus existing enforcement authority in that participating watershed, if the action will facilitate progress toward achieving work plan protection goals and benchmarks.

(4) The commission may provide priority funding to any watershed designated under the provisions of RCW **36.70A.705(2)(g)**. The director, in consultation with the statewide advisory committee, shall work with the watershed group to develop an accelerated implementation schedule for watersheds that receive priority funding.

(5) Commercial and noncommercial agricultural operators participating in the program are eligible to receive funding and assistance under watershed programs.

[2011 c 360 § 6.]

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## **36.70A.725**

### **Technical review of work plan—Time frame for action by director.**

(1) Upon receipt of a work plan submitted to the director under RCW **36.70A.720(2)(a)**, the director must submit the work plan to the technical panel for review.

(2) The technical panel shall review the work plan and report to the director within forty-five days after the director receives the work plan. The technical panel shall assess whether at the end of ten years after receipt of funding, the work plan, in conjunction with other existing plans and regulations, will protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in the watershed.

(3)(a) If the technical panel determines the proposed work plan will protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in the watershed:

(i) It must recommend approval of the work plan; and

(ii) The director must approve the work plan.

(b) If the technical panel determines the proposed work plan will not protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in the watershed:

- (i) It must identify the reasons for its determination; and
- (ii) The director must advise the watershed group of the reasons for disapproval.

(4) The watershed group may modify and resubmit its work plan for review and approval consistent with this section.

(5) If the director does not approve a work plan submitted under this section within two years and nine months after receipt of funding, the director shall submit the work plan to the statewide advisory committee for resolution. If the statewide advisory committee recommends approval, the director must approve the work plan.

(6) If the director does not approve a work plan for a watershed within three years after receipt of funding, the provisions of RCW **36.70A.735**(2) apply to the watershed.

[2011 c 360 § 7.]

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### **36.70A.730**

#### **Report by watershed group—Director consults with statewide advisory committee.**

(1) Upon receipt of a report by a watershed group under RCW **36.70A.720**(2)(b) that the work plan goals and benchmarks have been met, the director must consult with the statewide advisory committee. If the director concurs with the watershed group report, the watershed group shall continue to implement the work plan. If the director does not concur with the watershed group report, the director shall consult with the statewide advisory committee following the procedures in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) If either the director, following receipt of a report under subsection (1) of this section, or the watershed group, in the report submitted to the director under RCW **36.70A.720**(2)(b), concludes that the work plan goals and benchmarks for protection have not been met, the director must consult with the statewide advisory committee for a recommendation on how to proceed. If the director, acting upon recommendation from the statewide advisory committee, determines that the watershed is likely to meet the goals and benchmarks with an additional six months of planning and implementation time, the director must grant an extension. If the director, acting upon a recommendation from the statewide advisory committee, determines that the watershed is unlikely to meet the goals and benchmarks within six months, the watershed is subject to RCW **36.70A.735**.

(3) A watershed that fails to meet its goals and benchmarks for protection within the six-month time extension under subsection (2) of this section is subject to RCW **36.70A.735**.

[2011 c 360 § 8.]

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### **36.70A.735**

#### **When work plan is not approved, fails, or is unfunded—County's duties—**



## Rules.

(1) Within eighteen months after one of the events in subsection (2) of this section, a county must:

(a) Develop, adopt, and implement a watershed work plan approved by the department that protects critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The department shall consult with the departments of agriculture, ecology, and fish and wildlife and the commission, and other relevant state agencies before approving or disapproving the proposed work plan. The appeal of the department's decision under this subsection is subject to appeal under RCW **36.70A.280**;

(b) Adopt development regulations previously adopted under this chapter by another local government for the purpose of protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities. Regulations adopted under this subsection (1)(b) must be from a region with similar agricultural activities, geography, and geology and must: (i) Be from Clallam, Clark, King, or Whatcom counties; or (ii) have been upheld by a growth management hearings board or court after July 1, 2011, where the board or court determined that the provisions adequately protected critical areas functions and values in areas used for agricultural activities;

(c) Adopt development regulations certified by the department as protective of critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities as required by this chapter. The county may submit existing or amended regulations for certification. The department must make its decision on whether to certify the development regulations within ninety days after the county submits its request. If the department denies the certification, the county shall take an action under (a), (b), or (d) of this subsection. The department must consult with the departments of agriculture, ecology, and fish and wildlife and the commission before making a certification under this section. The appeal of the department's decision under this subsection (1)(c) is subject to appeal under RCW **36.70A.280**; or

(d) Review and, if necessary, revise development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they relate to agricultural activities.

(2) A participating watershed is subject to this section if:

(a) The work plan is not approved by the director as provided in RCW **36.70A.725**;

(b) The work plan's goals and benchmarks for protection have not been met as provided in RCW **36.70A.720**;

(c) The commission has determined under RCW **36.70A.740** that the county, department, commission, or departments of agriculture, ecology, or fish and wildlife have not received adequate funding to implement a program in the watershed; or

(d) The commission has determined under RCW **36.70A.740** that the watershed has not received adequate funding to implement the program.

(3) The department shall adopt rules to implement subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section.

[2011 c 360 § 9.]

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## 36.70A.740

### Commission's duties—Timelines.

(1) By July 31, 2015, the commission must:

(a) In consultation with each county that has elected under RCW **36.70A.710** to participate in the program, determine which participating watersheds received adequate funding to establish and

implement the program in a participating watershed by July 1, 2015; and

(b) In consultation with other state agencies, for each participating watershed determine whether state agencies required to take action under the provisions of RCW **36.70A.700** through **36.70A.760** have received adequate funding to support the program by July 1, 2015.

(2) By July 31, 2017, and every two years thereafter, in consultation with each county that has elected under RCW **36.70A.710** to participate in the program and other state agencies, the commission shall determine for each participating watershed whether adequate funding to implement the program was provided during the preceding biennium as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If the commission determines under subsection (1) or (2) of this section that a participating watershed has not received adequate funding, the watershed is subject to the provisions of RCW **36.70A.735**.

(4) In consultation with the statewide advisory committee and other state agencies, not later than August 31, 2015, and each August 31st every two years thereafter, the commission shall report to the legislature and each county that has elected under RCW **36.70A.710** to participate in the program on the participating watersheds that have received adequate funding to establish and implement the program.

[2011 c 360 § 10.]

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## **36.70A.745**

### **Statewide advisory committee—Membership.**

(1)(a) From the nominations made under (b) of this subsection, the commission shall appoint a statewide advisory committee, consisting of: Two persons representing county government, two persons representing agricultural organizations, and two persons representing environmental organizations. The commission, in conjunction with the governor's office, shall also invite participation by two representatives of tribal governments.

(b) Organizations representing county, agricultural, and environmental organizations shall submit nominations of their representatives to the commission within ninety days of July 22, 2011. Members of the statewide advisory committee shall serve two-year terms except that for the first year, one representative from each of the sectors shall be appointed to the statewide advisory committee for a term of one year. Members may be reappointed by the commission for additional two-year terms and replacement members shall be appointed in accordance with the process for selection of the initial members of the statewide advisory committee.

(c) Upon notification of the commission by an appointed member, the appointed member may designate a person to serve as an alternate.

(d) The executive director of the commission shall serve as a nonvoting chair of the statewide advisory committee.

(e) Members of the statewide advisory committee shall serve without compensation and, unless serving as a state officer or employee, are not eligible for reimbursement for subsistence, lodging, and travel expenses under RCW **43.03.050** and **43.03.060**.

(2) The role of the statewide advisory committee is to advise the commission and other agencies involved in development and operation of the program.

[2011 c 360 § 11.]

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### **36.70A.750**

#### **Agricultural operators—Individual stewardship plan.**

(1) Agricultural operators implementing an individual stewardship plan consistent with a work plan are presumed to be working toward the protection and enhancement of critical areas.

(2) If the watershed group determines that additional or different practices are needed to achieve the work plan's goals and benchmarks, the agricultural operator may not be required to implement those practices but may choose to implement the revised practices on a voluntary basis and is eligible for funding to revise the practices.

[2011 c 360 § 12.]

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### **36.70A.755**

#### **Implementing the work plan.**

In developing stewardship practices to implement the work plan, to the maximum extent practical the watershed group should:

(1) Avoid management practices that may have unintended adverse consequences for other habitats, species, and critical areas functions and values; and

(2) Administer the program in a manner that allows participants to be eligible for public or private environmental protection and enhancement incentives while protecting and enhancing critical area functions and values.

[2011 c 360 § 13.]

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### **36.70A.760**

#### **Agricultural operators—Withdrawal from program.**

An agricultural operator participating in the program may withdraw from the program and is not required to continue voluntary measures after the expiration of an applicable contract. The watershed group must account for any loss of protection resulting from withdrawals when establishing goals and benchmarks for protection and a work plan under RCW **36.70A.720**.

[2011 c 360 § 14.]

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### **36.70A.800**

#### **Role of growth strategies commission.**

The growth strategies commission created by executive order shall:

(1) Analyze different methods for assuring that county and city comprehensive plans adopted under chapter **36.70A** RCW are consistent with the planning goals under RCW **36.70A.020** and with other requirements of chapter **36.70A** RCW;

(2) Recommend to the legislature and the governor by October 1, 1990, a specific structure or process that, among other things:

(a) Ensures county and city comprehensive plans adopted under chapter **36.70A** RCW are coordinated and comply with planning goals and other requirements under chapter **36.70A** RCW;

(b) Requires state agencies to comply with this chapter and to consider and be consistent with county and city comprehensive plans in actions by state agencies, including the location, financing, and expansion of transportation systems and other public facilities;

(c) Defines the state role in growth management;

(d) Addresses lands and resources of statewide significance, including to:

(i) Protect these lands and resources of statewide significance by developing standards for their preservation and protection and suggesting the appropriate structure to monitor and enforce the preservation of these lands and resources; and

(ii) Consider the environmental, economic, and social values of the lands and resources with statewide significance;

(e) Identifies potential state funds that may be withheld and incentives that promote county and city compliance with chapter **36.70A** RCW;

(f) Increases affordable housing statewide and promotes linkages between land use and transportation;

(g) Addresses vesting of rights; and

(h) Addresses short subdivisions; and

(3) Develop recommendations to provide for the resolution of disputes over urban growth areas between counties and cities, including incorporations and annexations.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 86.]

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## **36.70A.900**

### **Severability—1990 1st ex.s. c 17.**

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 88.]

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## **36.70A.901**

### **Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17.**

Part and section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 89.]

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## **36.70A.902**

### **Section headings not law—1991 sp.s. c 32.**

Section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law.

[1991 sp.s. c 32 § 40.]

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## **36.70A.903**

### **Transfer of powers, duties, and functions.**

(1) The powers, duties, and functions of the growth management hearings board are hereby transferred to the environmental and land use hearings office.

(2)(a) All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or written material in the possession of the growth management hearings board shall be delivered to the custody of the environmental and land use hearings office. All cabinets, furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible property employed by the growth management hearings board shall be made available to the environmental and land use hearings office. All funds, credits, or other assets held by the growth management hearings board shall be assigned to the environmental and land use hearings office.

(b) Any appropriations made to the growth management hearings board shall, on July 1, 2011, be transferred and credited to the environmental and land use hearings office.

(c) If any question arises as to the transfer of any personnel, funds, books, documents, records, papers, files, equipment, or other tangible property used or held in the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties and functions transferred, the director of financial management shall make a determination as to the proper allocation and certify the same to the state agencies concerned.

(3) All employees of the growth management hearings board are transferred to the jurisdiction of the environmental and land use hearings office. All employees classified under chapter **41.06** RCW, the state civil service law, are assigned to the environmental and land use hearings office to perform their usual duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws and rules governing state civil service.

(4) All existing rules and all pending cases before the growth management hearings board shall be continued and acted upon by the growth management hearings board located within the environmental and land use hearings office. All pending business, existing contracts, and obligations shall remain in full force and shall be performed by the environmental and land use hearings office.

(5) The transfer of the powers, duties, functions, and personnel of the growth management hearings board shall not affect the validity of any act performed before July 1, 2011.

(6) If apportionments of budgeted funds are required because of the transfers directed by this section, the director of financial management shall certify the apportionments to the agencies

affected, the state auditor, and the state treasurer. Each of these shall make the appropriate transfer and adjustments in funds and appropriation accounts and equipment records in accordance with the certification.

[2010 c 210 § 43.]

#### **NOTES:**

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW [43.21B.001](#).

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### **36.70A.904**

#### **Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 360.**

If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state.

[2011 c 360 § 21.]