

25 (8) Within the amounts appropriated in this section the
26 department shall establish a conservation task force. This task force
27 shall develop recommendations on mechanisms to fund fish and wildlife
28 conservation and connecting residents and youth to the outdoors. This
29 task force shall consist of a diverse set of representatives
30 including, hunters, anglers, private landowners, and fish and
31 wildlife conservation organizations. The department shall request
32 participation from tribal representatives. The task force shall:

33 (a) Perform a general assessment of fish and wildlife
34 conservation programs and funding relative to public values around
35 natural resources.

36 (b) Solicit input and collect information on regional priorities
37 and suggestions for state action.

(c) Develop recommendations for transforming conservation
1 programs to promote relevancy to the public and better engage
2 partners in fish and wildlife conservation.

3 (d) Develop recommendations for long-term sustainable funding
4 sources for conservation of Washington's diverse game and nongame
5 species and habitats by the department of fish and wildlife, state
6 parks and recreation, department of ecology, department of natural
7 resources, other state and tribal agencies, and important partners
8 including local governments, conservation and recreation groups,
9 businesses, universities, schools, and others.

10 (e) Suggest opportunities to support and expand environmental/
11 outdoor education for youth across the state and connect
12 Washingtonians of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds to the
13 outdoors.

14 (f) Offer ways to support Washington-based businesses that rely
15 upon the natural resources that provide our state's high quality of
16 life.

17 The task force shall provide draft recommendations to the
18 governor by April 2, 2018, with a final report to the governor and
19 legislature by June 20, 2018.