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**MEETING DATE:** October 2009 **ITEM NUMBER:** 3D

**TITLE:** Update on Implementation of SHB 1957

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**APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR:**

**Proposed Action:** Briefing

## Summary of Implementation of SHB 1957

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) was directed to evaluate various land preservation mechanisms such as fee simple acquisitions, conservation easements, term conservation easements, and leases. The study needs to consider the ability of each to respond to future economic, social, and environmental changes. Included in this assessment is an examination of the relative advantages, disadvantages, and costs.

A report is due to the legislature on January 1, 2010. Due to staffing constraints, RCO used existing funds to hire a contractor to prepare this assessment. An RFP was distributed and three contractors responded. The agency selected the law firm of Gordon Derr. They will provide us with a final report on December 23, 2009, which is to include a legal, practical, and economic analysis.

The consultant will review the literature and consider factors such as the effect of economic cycles, population projections and demographic changes, and the need for adaptation to climate and other environmental changes. The approach will consider investments in recreation lands, habitat, farmland, and other lands protected by the state.

The report may eventually assist the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board in determining how different tools in different scenarios can improve the state's ability to make more strategic investments of public resources. The results may provide guidance for determining which land preservation mechanism would be most cost-effective for achieving the goals of each program, category, or project. The findings may also support the work of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group.