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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**HB 1054**

**Brief Description:** Declaring water conservation practices to be a beneficial use of water for the purposes of relinquishment.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Chandler, Taylor, Nealey, Warnick, Walsh, Blake, Schmick, Klippert, Shea, Armstrong and Hinkle.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Encourages conservation practices by all water users.
- Considers conservation practices a beneficial use for the purposes of relinquishment.

**Hearing Date:** 1/25/11

**Staff:** Courtney Barnes (786-7194).

**Background:**

Water rights may be relinquished when a person, for five or more consecutive years, abandons or voluntarily fails without sufficient cause to beneficially use water in accordance with their recorded right's terms. The water code provides a list of "sufficient causes" for voluntary non-use that protect a water right from relinquishment. Examples of sufficient causes that provide exemptions for the voluntary non-use of water include: drought or unavailability of water, certain military service, the operation of legal proceedings, and water conservation measures implemented under the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project [RCW 94.14.140].

**Summary of Bill:**

Water conservation practices by all water users are encouraged and are considered a beneficial use of water for the purposes of relinquishment.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.