



ACTION ALERT

In its third special session, the 2017 legislature finally passed a \$43.7 billion operating budget that will, at least for now, solve our education funding crisis. Due to a disagreement over water resource management (the Hirst decision), they have yet to pass a capital budget, putting the protection and enhancement of our state's natural resources in jeopardy. At risk is funding for continued forage fish research and \$80 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program which enables land protection, habitat conservation, and outdoor recreation access.

Email your legislators today and ask them to pass a capital budget before time runs out. A separate committee should be setup to resolve the Hirst water resource issue.

You helped us achieve some big victories this session and we thank you. We have **updated the state's renewable energy incentive program** (SB 5939), ensuring that solar power will continue to be part of our solutions around climate change. **Forest health and fire resiliency bills also passed** (SB 5546 and HB 1711) focused on forest restoration and proactively addressing wildfire risk in eastern Washington's forests. By accelerating the adoption of solar power and decreasing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, we are reducing carbon pollution in Washington - one of the most important things we can do to protect birds and people from the threat of climate change.

Note that although there were four carbon pricing bills put forth this session, none of them moved forward. **It remains our responsibility to push forward solutions that will dramatically reduce carbon emissions.** We will continue to work to identify policies - both in the legislature and at the ballot - that will take bold steps to address climate change.

Thank you for engaging with us this legislative session and for being the voice for birds in Washington state.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Gatton".

Gail Gatton
VP & Executive Director
Audubon Washington