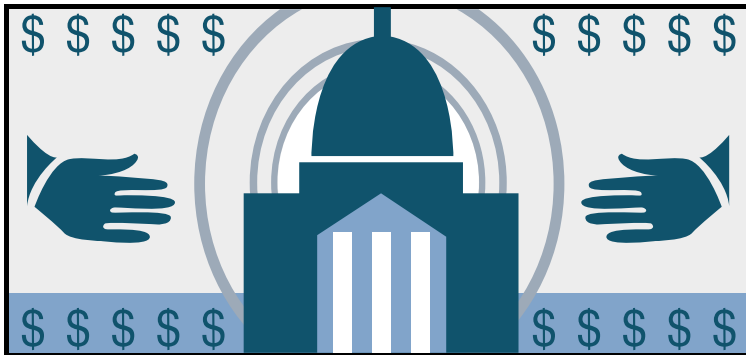




Senate and House Budgets Finally Released

Marine Bird Monitoring Cut by \$168,000 in House Budget

At the beginning of the Legislative session, we thought the marine bird monitoring program at Fish and Wildlife was off limits to the budget cuts. Neither the Governor nor the Senate cut this program, but on Thursday this week, the House Appropriations Committee chose to cut \$168,000 from the marine bird and mammal monitoring program. This decade-long monitoring program has tracked species of concern to determine whether or not they need protection under the Endangered Species Act. Without funding we will lose existing data as well as new information about marine birds in Puget Sound and along our Coastline. *Call your House Representatives and let them know this is a shortsighted budget cut that could potentially cost our state thousands of dollars in the future, in response to a citizen lawsuit, to verify whether a species should be listed under the ESA.*



Disproportionate Cuts to Environmental Programs

Of the 1,500 state jobs slated to be cut in the Senate's budget, one of six, or 17%, are from natural resource agencies. This is three times more than the average staff reductions called for in other state agencies.

The House budget is generally less harmful than the Senate in terms of program cuts to clean air, clean water and our

quality of life. The House proposes a \$14.9 million cut in natural resource agencies versus nearly \$31 million proposed by the Senate. The environmental community and Audubon have two overarching concerns:

- *Shifting dedicated funds to the general fund.* This means that the Legislature reduces or removes cash from dedicated accounts (like the Local Toxics Control funds) and then uses it for a variety of other programs, not just the dedicated program it was originally intended to fund. The danger in this "accounting" practice is that you never know if they will restore the funds to the original program.
- *Administrative Reductions.* Both chambers propose harsh "administrative reductions" which means that the agencies are given a dollar amount to cut and it is up to the agencies to figure out where to make those cuts. The Senate is imposing an administrative cut at a rate two times that of the House. The Senate imposes a \$7.6 million cut on Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Department of Natural Resources while the House proposes \$3.2 million.

Top Environmental Programs That Need Help

After analyzing the House and Senate budgets, Audubon and the other environmental organizations, have agreed that at least seven other programs need help. These are important programs that protect our Northwest quality of life. Please call your Legislator and express your opinion about the proposed cuts.

Marine Bird Monitoring: We support the current level of funding at the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The House budget proposes a \$168,000 cut. We oppose this cut. The discussion above illuminates the need to collect data on our marine bird populations.



Beach and Shoreline Protection: Restore shoreline management funds at the Department of Ecology. Both House and Senate budgets propose cuts of \$180,000 from shoreline management. This cut comes in the midst of negotiating a settlement to the Shoreline Management Act guidelines. Why are we cutting a program that is just resolving issues between business and the environmental community? We request the restoration of funding to improve our 1972-vintage rules and help local governments better protect sensitive beaches, river and stream buffers. Any cuts to the Shoreline Program are unacceptable.

Health of Puget Sound: We need to restore the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program at WDFW. This monitoring, data collection and technical assistance program tracks groundfish, rockfish and Pacific whiting in Puget Sound. These are indicator species in the Sound, and provide important measures of its overall health. The Senate budget only cuts \$142,000 whereas the House cuts \$287,000. If we have to take cuts, we prefer the Senate's budget.



Rescue Tug to Prevent Oil Spills: We support the House budget proposal to fund a rescue tug. The tug stationed at Neah Bay has a proven track record of preventing accidents that could foul our pristine marine waters and beaches. The Senate budget reduces funding for next year and then, in the following year, eliminates it entirely. In the past, we could rely on some help from the US Coast Guard,

but after September 11, the US Coast Guard duties have shifted to Home Security and away from oil spill prevention. It is time we had a rescue tug at Neah Bay. We support the House proposal.

State Parks: We support the House budget's approach to allowing State Parks to charge user fees in order to keep some of our state parks open. The Senate does not allow Parks to charge fees and thus is asking them to shut down 16-20 State Parks.

Salmon Hatcheries: The Governor's budget wisely reduces hatchery spending at a rate greater than both the Senate and House budgets. Washington State has the world's largest hatchery system; we can afford to limit spending on those less successful hatcheries. We support the Governor's budget reductions to the hatchery program.

Clean Air: Both the House and Senate budgets cut staff that provide technical assistance, outreach and public education efforts to help protect clean air. We are asking that funding be restored to Ecology's Clean Air Program.

What About the Other Bills ?

This is a quick update on bills we've tracked throughout the session.

SSB 6313 Ghost Nets

This bill passed the House unanimously and is on its way to the Governor for his signature. The bill requires that lost or abandoned fishing gear be reported to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

SSB 6553 Invasive Species

This bill passed the House unanimously and will prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species. It requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase its public awareness campaign and enforcement capability for invasive aquatic species.

SSB 6598 Wildlife and Nature Science Education Grants

This bill was voted out of the House Rules committee and is now waiting for a House floor vote. When funds become available (not this year !) this bill establishes an open-competitive grants program for non-profit organizations at the Office of Superintendent for Instructions. Audubon Chapters would be eligible for funding if they are doing natural science or wildlife education programs that meet the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs).



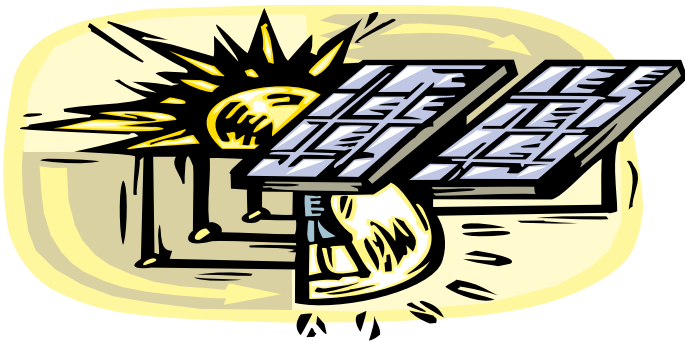
We still need phone calls to House members to get this bill voted on and passed out of the House.

HB 2657 State Purchases Washington Agricultural Products

As of March 6, this bill is out of the Senate rules committee, but still needs a floor vote in the Senate. We have supported this bill because it requires the director of general administration, through the state purchasing process, to buy Washington fruit, vegetables, and agricultural products for state institutions and state-supported facilities.

ESSB 6400 Biodiversity Conservation

As of March 7, this bill is waiting for a floor vote in the House. It is a great bill that would create a temporary committee to develop recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature about a framework for a statewide biodiversity conservation strategy. The purpose is to replace existing single-species or single-resource protection programs.



ESHB 2522 State Purchases Clean Technology

This bill passed the Senate and it requires the state to investigate opportunities to combine their efforts with other public agencies to determine whether or not combined purchasing can reduce the unit cost of clean technologies. They are instructed to explore wind and solar energy uses for their facilities and determine if they can combine their purchases for a lower overall price.

ESHB 2326 Climate Center

This bill is up for a Senate floor vote this week. The bill finds that it is in the public interest to support efforts to discuss and understand potential effects of climate change on Washington's water supply, agriculture, natural resources, coastal infrastructure, public health, and economy. It also encourages recommendations for avoiding, mitigating, and responding to those effects. Finally, the bill authorizes the establishment of the Washington Climate and Rural Energy Development Center at Washington State University. This center is to serve as a central, impartial, non-regulatory, public source of credible and reliable information and services necessary to address the various aspects of climate change and clean energy activities. Your Senators need to hear from you that this is a good bill and they should vote yes to pass it out of the Senate.

SSB 5841 Growth Management Act Deadlines

This bill passed the House, but had some amendments that need to be discussed with the Senate. It establishes a schedule to review comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted under the Growth Management Act (GMA). The bill requires that a county or city shall take action to review and, if needed, revise its comprehensive land use plan and regulations according to specific time periods. This is an improvement over the current GMA requirements that did not have firm deadlines for completing GMA plans or regulations.

We opposed several bills from the **Competitiveness Council** that would have imposed more cumbersome limits on agency rule-making, required the Governor to personally sign every new regulation and limit the authority of our natural resource agencies. All of these de-regulation bills are dead. Representative Sandra Romero held them up in the House State Government committee. **Thank you and way to go, Sandra !**

Bills That Audubon Supports



Keeping Families Healthy and Moving

—Bill Id#—	—Title—	—Status—	—Date—	—Sponsor—
E SHB 1411	Hazardous substances	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	AGEC (Veloria)
E SHB 2359	Regional transportation	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	TR (Fisher)
E HB 2440	Transportation/land use plan	Senate Transportation	02-19-02	Romero
E SHB 2969	Transportation	Senate 2nd Reading	03-07-02	TR (Fisher)
E SSB 5748	Transportation/land use plan	House 2nd Reading	03-06-02	TRAN (McAuliffe)
SSB 5841	Growth management act	House Passed 3rd Reading	03-06-02	SLG (Patterson)



Healthy Neighborhoods, Smart Kids, and Clean Technology

—Bill Id#—	—Title—	—Status—	—Date—	—Sponsor—
SHB 2308	Recycling & waste reduction	House Speaker signed	03-08-02	AGEC (Linville)
E SHB 2326	Climate & energy center	Senate 2nd Reading	03-04-02	AGEC (Linville)
E SHB 2376	Derelict vessels	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	NR (Rockefeller)
HB 2397	Organic food products	Senate 2nd Reading	03-05-02	Linville
E SHB 2506	Green building task force	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	AGEC (Romero)
E SHB 2522	Clean technologies/purchase	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	SG (Sullivan)
SHB 2648	Capital budget applications	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	CB (Murray)
2SHB 2697	Growth management/economic development	Senate Ways & Means	03-01-02	APP (Reardon)
2SSB 5104	County conservation futures levy	House Finance	02-28-02	NPS (Carlson)
2SSB 5909	Vessels/financial responsibility	House Appropriations	03-01-02	WM (Fraser)
SSB 6284	Air pollution/vehicles	House Transportation	02-17-02	EEW (Jacobsen)
SSB 6329	Emission control inspection	Delivered to Governor	03-07-02	EEW (Regala)
2SSB 6356	Children/environmental health	House Appropriations	02-28-02	WM (Franklin)
E SSB 6400	Biodiversity conservation	House 2nd Reading	03-06-02	NPS (Jacobsen)
SB 6420	Organic food products	House Ag & Ecology	02-17-02	Rasmussen
SB 6480	Recycling & waste reduction	House Ag & Ecology	02-15-02	Eide
SSB 6598	Natural science/wildlife education	House 2nd Reading	03-06-02	EDU (Kohl-Welles)
E SSB 6619	Climate & energy center	House Ag & Ecology	02-17-02	EEW (Poulsen)
SSB 6658	Energy conservation projects	House 2nd Reading	03-07-02	EEW (Poulsen)
SB 6737	Watershed plans	House Ag & Ecology	02-17-02	Fraser
SJM8005	Vessel safety standards	House 2nd Reading	03-05-02	Fraser
E SJM8023	Hanford Reservation cleanup	House Speaker signed	03-06-02	Hale

Supporting Washington Farmers, Salmon, and Outdoor Recreation

—Bill Id#—	—Title—	—Status—	—Date—	—Sponsor—
E HB 2288	Environmental mitigation	Signed by President of the Senate	03-06-02	Fisher
HB 2329	Conservation easements	Senate 2nd Reading	03-06-02	Lantz
HB 2375	Trust lands	Senate - Made eligible to be placed on 2nd reading	03-02-02	Rockefeller
E HB 2498	Industrial land banks	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-06-02	Fromhold
HB 2657	Agriculture products/state facilities	Senate 2nd Reading	03-06-02	Hunt
HB 2669	Animal waste/energy resource	Senate 2nd Reading	03-05-02	Linville
E2SHB 2671	Permit assistance center	Senate 2nd Reading	03-06-02	APP (Linville)
SHB 2758	Agricultural conservation easement	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-04-02	AGEC (Quall)
SSB 6257	Contract harvesting/timber	House Passed 3rd Reading	03-05-02	NPS (Jacobsen)
SSB 6313	Derelict fishing gear	Delivered to Governor	03-07-02	NPS (Oke)
SB 6484	Conservation easements	Signed by President of the Senate	03-08-02	Haugen
SSB 6553	Invasive aquatic species	House Passed 3rd Reading	03-06-02	NPS (Poulsen)
SJM8030	Puget Sound	House 2nd Reading	03-07-02	Jacobsen

Bills that Audubon Opposes

—Bill Id#—	—Title—	—Status—	—Date—	—Sponsor—
E SHB 1005	Public utility rights-of-way	Senate 2nd Reading	03-06-02	TTE (Morris)
E SHB 2305	Shoreline management	Senate Passed 3rd Reading	03-07-02	LGH (Hatfield)
SHB 2637	Long-term energy supply	Senate Ways & Means	03-01-02	TTE (Morris)
HB 2740	Rule-making authority	House State Government	01-25-02	Nixon
HB 2781	Administrative rule adoption	House State Government	01-28-02	Holmquist
HB 2787	Significant legislative rules	House State Government	01-28-02	Orcutt
E SHB 2866	Hydraulic permits	Senate 3rd Reading	03-08-02	NR (Doumit)
SSB 5107	Rural counties/growth management	House Local Government & Housing	02-15-02	SLG (Sheldon, T.)
SB 6251	Administrative rule adoption	House Appropriations	03-01-02	West
SB 6252	Rule-making authority	House State Government	03-01-02	West
E SB 6564	Significant legislative rules	House Appropriations	03-01-02	Hale
SB 6749	Invalidity agency rules	House Appropriations	03-01-02	West



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