



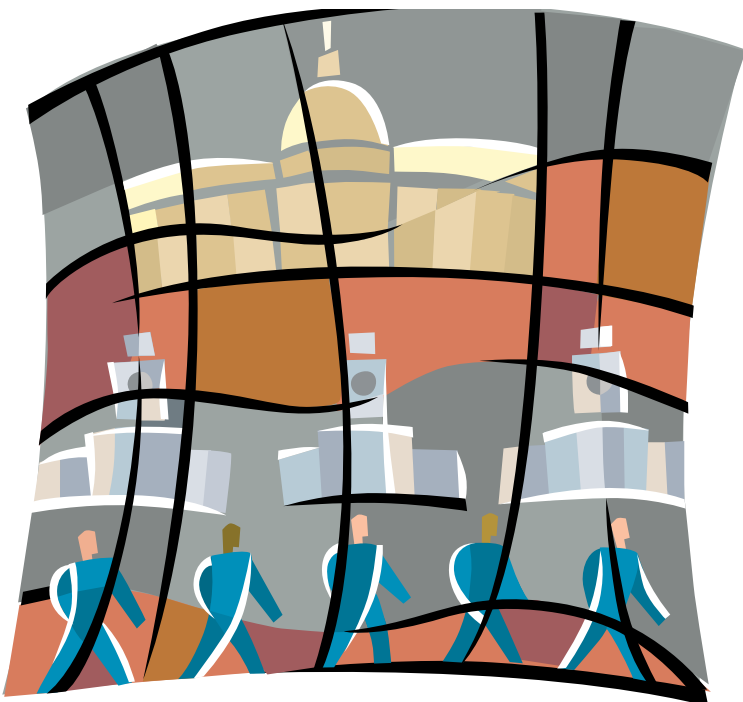
Not Quite Over Yet...

As of this printing for BEV, State Legislators are still in session and are trying to make the final decisions on our state's operating and transportation budgets. Next week, we will send you the last BEV with a more in-depth analysis of the budgets and policy bills. In the meantime, we can report on two bills that had an exciting finish.



Kitsap Audubon Society Gets the Governor's Pen !

On Tuesday March 12, Richard Anderson, Conservation Committee Co-Chair from Kitsap A.S., drove to Olympia when Governor Locke signed into law SSB 6313 Derelict Fishing Gear. The Governor gave Richard the pen he used to sign the bill and he congratulated Richard and Audubon for working so hard on abandoned ghost nets. With this new law, abandoned fishing gear can be reported to Washington State Fish and Wildlife. This new law will reduce the number of "ghost nets" from killing marine birds and mammals in our state waters.





Last Minute Tension for Environmental Education

Last Friday, March 8 was the final day for votes on policy bills. Since early in the session, Audubon has been working with the Woodland Park Zoo to pass a bill that created a grants program for non-profit organizations to fund natural science and wildlife conservation education. As the clock ticked toward 5pm last Friday, we

waited anxiously for the bill to be voted on in the House. At 4:58pm, Rep. Mark Doumit and Rep. Dave Mastin asked the Speaker of the House, Rep. Frank Chopp to bring the bill up for a vote. But, a bill on family leave was brought to a vote instead. We lost the bill by two minutes! Of course, Audubon was disappointed, but this was the first year that an education bill focused on nature and wildlife has made it through both houses. We will try again next legislative session!

Don't change that channel.....MORE Legislative Information coming next week!





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