



## What Happened in Week Two ?

### Environmental Groups Sent Strong Letter to the Governor

Our environmental coalition presented a letter to the Governor asking for prompt action on four major issues. We asked that at least a third of the new transportation dollars be invested in expanding our choices for transportation (buses, light-rail, HOV lanes). We asked that the water bill require enough water in the streams for fish and water quality. We reminded him that fees need to be in place to fund permitting programs (for example, it costs Department of Ecology \$8 million to operate their water rights program, yet the permit fee only generates \$70,000.) The letter also stated that we will oppose any legislative efforts by the Competitive Council that will weaken Governor Locke's standard of not harming our state's environmental laws.

### Is climate change only an international problem, or is it ours too?

The House Agriculture and Ecology Committee heard testimony on HB 2326 which establishes a Climate and Rural Energy Development Center under the auspices of Washington State University. The opponents of the bill stated that global climate change is an international or federal issue and not a state issue. The supporters stated that the Center would allow Washington to be a leader in understanding how climate change occurs and what can be done now and in the future to arrest it. This issue is also before the Senate Environment & Water Committee on 1/29 at 3:30pm.

### New deadline for better forest practices

The Senate heard SB 6258 allowing counties and cities to adopt regulations by December 2005 that will establish minimum standards for forest practices. The Department

of Natural Resources is developing a model ordinance that will guide local governments. Audubon member, Senator Ken Jacobsen is the prime sponsor on this bill and has worked with DNR to ensure habitat protection for birds and wildlife. Other sponsors are Sen. Oke and Sen. Rasmussen.

### What's Coming Up in Week Three ?

**These are bills we support. If you are interested in contacting your Legislators, please let them know we support the following:**

#### **In the Senate...**

#### Controlling Invasive Aquatic Species

SB 6553 clearly defines what is an "invasive species" and gives Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement authority to control the transport, possession or release of invasive species. Audubon supports this bill. It will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources, Parks and Shorelines Committee on January 28 at 1:30 pm.

#### Migratory Bird Stamps (!!!)

Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen was the prime sponsor and Senators Bob Oke and Ken Jacobsen co-sponsored this wonderfully simple bill: it just raises the fees for a migratory bird stamp from \$6 to \$8. The money is well worth the increase because it will go towards buying up waterfowl habitat, restoring over-used Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat lands or and planting supplemental food for over-



wintering. The dedicated funds are overseen by the Migratory Waterfowl Art Committee; a hard working Audubon member, Louvel McLeod, is a member of that committee and makes sure the money is well-spent. Obviously, we support this bill. It will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources, Parks and Shorelines Committee on January 31 at 3:30 pm.



*Mallards at Columbia NWR by Adam Grimm*

### **In the House....**

#### **Mercury Bill**

HB 2686 regulates the sale, use and disposal of mercury. The purpose of the bill is to eliminate the ever-increasing cumulative effects of small amounts of mercury found in dental fillings, thermometers, and car parts. Audubon supports this bill. It will be heard in the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee on January 29 at 1:30 pm.

#### **Green Buildings**

HB 2506 would set up a joint legislative committee to study how to build “healthy” and environmentally friendly buildings and developments. Audubon supports this bill. It will be heard in the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee on January 31 at 8 am.

#### **Permit Assistance Center**

HB 2671 would create a permit assistance center at the Department of Ecology to coordinate information about regulations, forms, deadlines and be a point of contact for anyone needing to get a permit that relates to the environment. Audubon supports this bill. It will be heard in the Agriculture and Ecology Committee on January 31 at 8 am.

#### **Integrating transportation and growth management**

HB 2440 requires city planners to show how they plan to integrate transportation (roads/mass transit/bike lanes) with their urban growth plans. It also requires cities to take into account how to revitalize downtown areas, how to promote compact, transit-oriented development, and work towards multimodal transportation in their city. Audubon supports this bill. It will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on January 28 at 3:30 pm.





## BIRD'S EYE VIEW BILL TRACKING

More recommendations for action on specific bills will be in the next issue!

### House Bills (*italics shows next hearing*)

Position*	Bill #	Short title of bill
TBD**	HB 1005	Public utility rights-of-way on aquatic lands
Support	HB 1395	Encouraging retention and enhancement of the job base in rural counties
TBD	HB 1662	Enabling counties planning under chapter 36.70A RCW to create nine lots in a short subdivision within a designated urban growth area
TBD	HB 2056	GMA amendment to add economic growth component
Support	HB 2288	Wetlands Mitigation Transfer (also see *SB 6250)
TBD	HB 2305	AG exemption for shorelines
TBD	HB 2307	Relating to timber substitutions and export restrictions
Support	HB 2308	Recycling for construction sites / no yard waste 2012
TBD	HB 2311	Changing provisions relating to small forest landowners
TBD	HB 2310	Responsible bidder to DNR
Support	HB 2326	Establishing the Washington Climate and Rural Energy Development Center. <i>1/31 3:30pm Senate Natural Resources/Parks</i>
Support	HB 2327	Encouraging greenhouse gas mitigation
Support	HB 2329	Authorizing additional trust authority to take advantage of federal estate tax benefits for conservation easements
Support	HB 2342	Revising the limitation on impact fees regarding fire protection facilities
Support	HB 2343	Revising the limitation on impact fees regarding law enforcement, courts, and jails
Support	HB 2359	Authorizing the financing of regional transportation planning improvements by counties
Support	HB 2376	Derelict vessels
Support	HB 2398	Contract logging on DNR lands allows DNR more control over logging operations
TBD	HB 2400	Docks & moorage near DNR land
Support	HB 2423	Creating green HOV lanes
Support	HB2440	Link Transportation & Growth Management <i>1/28 3:30pm House Transportation</i>
Support	HB2506	Green Buildings <i>1/31 8:00am House Ag/Ecology JLOB</i>
Support	HB2671	Ecology Permit Assistance Center <i>1/31 8:00am House Ag/Ecology JLOB</i>
Support	HB2686	Mercury Bill <i>1/29 1:30pm House Ag/Ecology JLOB</i>

### Senate Bills (*italics shows next hearing*)

Position	Bill #	Short title of bill
TBD	SB 5370	Splitting the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development and reestablishing the Department of Community Development and the Department of Trade and Economic Development
TBD	SB 5833	Permitting legislative hearings on initiatives and referendums
TBD	SB 6070	Economic development component of Growth Management Act

\* Positions taken by the environmental community to date

\*\* To Be Determined



## List of bills (continued)

### Senate Bills (continued)

Position*	Bill #	Short title of bill
TBD**	SB 6140	Creating congestion relief boards
Support	SB 6246	Organic foods
Support	*SB 6250	Wetlands Mitigation Transfer
Oppose	SB 6252	Administrative Procedures Act eliminates agency's general rule-making authority
TBD	SB 6258	Modify class IV forest practices
Support	SB 6284	Providing incentives to reduce air pollution
Support	SB 6285	Providing incentives to reduce air pollution through the use of clean alternative fuel vehicles
TBD	SB 6313	Ghost nets
Support	SB 6329	Exempt clean fuel vehicles from inspection
Support	SB 6330	Revising provisions relating to metropolitan park districts
Support	SB 6331	Specifying additional purposes for the use of revenues under the county conservation futures levy
Support	SB 6332	Allowing counties to increase funding for properties acquired through conservation easements
Support	SB 6333	Authorizing a local option sales tax to fund parks and recreational facilities
Support	SB 6334	Providing funding for parks and recreational facilities
Support	SB 6355	Expanding request authority for approval of low-income discounts for electric or gas services
Support	SB 6400	Developing a statewide biodiversity conservation strategy
TBD	SB 6416	Allowing public utility districts to define the eligible group of low-income citizens to whom they may provide services at reduced rates
Support	SB 6420	Organic foods products
Support	SB 6353	Migratory Bird Stamp 1/31 3:30pm Senate Natural Resources/Parks JAC
Support	SB 6553	Controlling Invasive Species 1/28 3:30pm Senate Natural Resources/Parks JAC

For a complete text of each bill, please go to <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm>

\* Positions taken by the environmental community to date

\*\* To Be Determined





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Representative's Name  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia WA 98504-0600

For the **Senate**, address as follows:

Senator's Name  
PO Box 404[Leg. Dist.]  
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(For example - 43rd Leg. Dist.: PO Box 40443, Olympia WA 98504-0443)

### Olympia Office Location Key:

**JAC** John A. Cherberg Bldg.     **JLOB** John L. O'Brien Bldg.     **INB** Irv Newhouse Bldg.     **LEG** Legislative Bldg.

- § Always include your name and address and those of the official on all mail and E-mail communications.
- § Limit faxes to three pages and always include the name of the legislative recipient on the cover sheet.

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First 8 letters of the last name, underscore, first 2 letters of the first name followed by @leg.wa.gov  
(For example, **Sen.** Bill Finkbeiner: finkbein\_bi@leg.wa.gov or **Rep.** Pat Lantz: lantz\_pa@leg.wa.gov)

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# Audubon WASHINGTON

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To conserve and restore natural ecosystems,  
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humanity and the earth's biological diversity.