

Short Session, Big Stakes

2022 is a short, “supplemental” legislative session, but there’s so much at stake for Washington State’s birds and people.

Legislative Priorities

CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY

In 2021 the state legislature passed several landmark climate policies. From Clean Fuels to the Climate Commitment Act, we’re beginning to see a path towards 100% clean energy in Washington State.

In 2022, legislators must finish the job by passing legislation incorporating climate resilience and transportation emissions reduction into the state’s Growth Management Act (HB 1099).

Legislators should also create incentives to promote more solar energy in the built environment, especially when solar projects benefit vulnerable populations.

We’re also asking the legislature to provide the funding necessary to get the Sustainable Farm and Fields program off the ground, bringing new investments in climate-smart farming across the state.

COASTAL CONSERVATION

Governor Jay Inslee is expected to prioritize salmon recovery in the coming years. This is an incredible opportunity to make real gains for habitat restoration and ecosystem recovery in one of our priority geographies, the Puget Sound.

In 2022 there will be several policies in play that will help advance Puget Sound recovery. Legislators should pass new policy to improve public data, close enforcement gaps, and advance restoration of shorelines. They also must remove restrictions on how much money counties can invest in nature through the Conservation Futures program.

PROTECTING THE SHRUB-STEPPE

40 solar proposals on 54,000 acres. Less than one full time position at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife managing a veritable solar boom. WDFW needs more funding to ensure the best science on wildlife impacts is taken into consideration when reviewing new industrial solar projects.

The legislature also must protect funding for the least-conflict solar siting process in the Columbia Plateau.



Belted Kingfisher.
Photo: Charles Wheeler/APA

Speak up for Birds

AUDUBON IN WASHINGTON ADVOCACY DAY

On December 7th Audubon Washington and chapter leaders from across the state will host our annual virtual advocacy day. Throughout the day, we’ll meet with state legislators to share our love of birds and our vision for a climate resilient Washington state.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Audubon campaign staff will train local leaders to facilitate impactful meetings with legislators and their staff.

Sign-up today at birdscan.win

OTHER WAYS TO ADVOCATE

Audubon members consistently lead the way in elevating important conservation issues for key decision-makers. By signing up for our weekly legislative updates, we’ll keep you in-the-know on the key policies impacting birds and our communities.

Join our Action Network at join.birdscan.win