



Mountain Bluebird

# NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR WASHINGTON STATE

Climate change is an urgent threat to our birds and communities. Research shows that Washington State can apply natural solutions to the problem. We must realize these solutions by setting strong sequestration targets and developing programs that promote carbon sequestration on our natural and working lands, like S.B. 5947.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR WORKING LANDS

### Forestry:

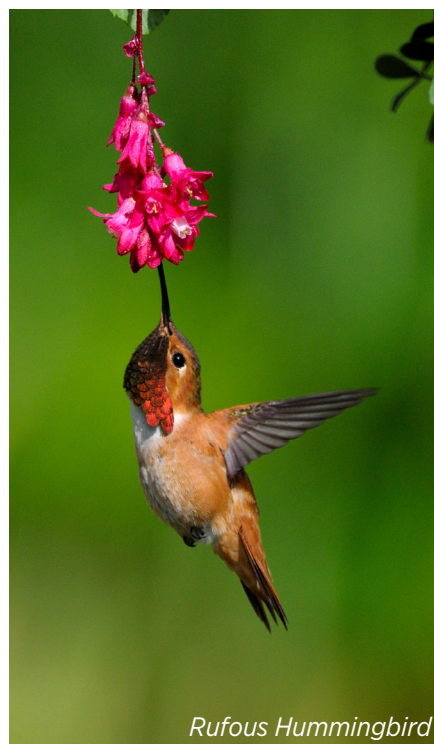
Audubon's science shows that coniferous forests are the biome most threatened by climate change. In the Pacific Northwest, up to **1.1 million acres** per year can be lost to wildfires by 2040.<sup>1</sup>

### Agriculture:

Warming temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and stonger fires will increase chances of drought, disease, and delayed planting.<sup>2</sup>

## NATURAL CARBON STORAGE IN WASHINGTON STATE

Washington State has the potential for natural solutions to succeed.



Rufous Hummingbird

### AGRICULTURAL SOILS

- Soils store up to **three times** more carbon than the atmosphere.<sup>3</sup>
- Eastern Washington holds **94%** of the state's cropland<sup>4</sup>, strengthening Washington's soil carbon storage potential.

### FORESTS

- Washington and Oregon forests are already accumulating the equivalent of **24%** of both states' carbon emissions from fossil fuels.<sup>5</sup>

## SUSTAINABLE FARMS AND FIELDS PROGRAM

The untapped potential of Washington's working lands to store carbon are crucial to mitigating climate change and improving farm productivity. Programs like SB 5947 will encourage prosperity in rural communities and do our part to meet our climate goals.

### What it Will Do

- Provide financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who voluntarily adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

### What it Measures<sup>6</sup>

- **Input efficiency:** Any activity that reduces energy or resource inputs.
- **Carbon management:** Any activity that increases organic carbon stored in soils.
- **Agroforestry:** The addition of new trees to the agricultural landscape.

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**We call on our state legislature to set strong science-based greenhouse gas emissions targets with specific carbon sequestration goals and support voluntary grant programs like SB 5947.**



### ABOUT AUDUBON WASHINGTON

Audubon Washington was founded in 1981. We represent over 35,000 members and 25 local chapters across the state.

It's no wonder we care. Audubon's peer-reviewed research shows that unmitigated climate change threatens two-thirds of North American birds - including the Mountain Bluebird, Rufous Hummingbird, and Eared Grebe - as they face shrinking ranges due to extreme weather and shifting seasons.

Audubon supports common-sense, bipartisan solutions that reduce carbon emissions at the speed and scale necessary to protect birds and their habitats.

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**Photo credits** FIRST PAGE: Mountain Bluebird, Trevor Roche/Audubon Photography Awards; Rufous Hummingbird, Leslie Scopes/Great Backyard Bird Count. THIS PAGE: Eared Grebe, Peter Knoot/Audubon Photography Awards.

1. <https://ecologywa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change/Climate-change-the-environment/Wildfire-risks> <http://cses.washington.edu/db/pdf/snoveretalsok2013sec11.pdf>

2. <https://carbonwa.org/carbonwas-sustainable-farms-and-fields-campaign/>

3. <http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp2.cahnrs.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2019/04/CarbonSeqPNW-for-CSANR-website-FINAL.pdf>

4. <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1507005.pdf>

5. <https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/science/scifi195.pdf>

6. <https://carbonwa.org/carbonwas-sustainable-farms-and-fields-campaign/>

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