



Audubon | WASHINGTON

2021 Weekly Legislative Update

The 2021 legislative concluded on Sunday and we're thrilled to report that our legislative agenda fared quite well. Scroll down to our bill tracker for a comprehensive overview of where our priority bills ended up, but here are a few key highlights:

- **Clean Fuels (HB 1091):** The House and Senate came to an agreement on a compromise version that is now on its way to the Governor's desk. This bill (as well as the Governor's Cap and Invest bill) are contingent on the passage of a new state transportation package, which means we may see a special session later this year.
- **Climate-GMA (HB 1099):** This bill did not pass an important cutoff deadline and is dead for the legislative session. However, funding was included in the operating budget to create model climate change elements for counties to use in their comprehensive plans.
- **HEAL Act (SB 5141):** Our top partner priority passed both chambers and is headed to the Governor's desk. Environmental justice will now be defined and embedded in state law.
- **Shoreline Armoring (SB 5273):** Both chambers passed this bill and it is on its way to the Governor's desk. Replacement of shoreline armoring will now help contribute to ecosystem recovery and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
- **Both of our budget proviso priorities (least-conflict solar siting and sagebrush fire recovery)** were included in the final budgets as agreed upon by the House and Senate.

For more detailed information we encourage you to check out our end-of-session blog series. The general session wrap up is [posted here](#) and contains hyperlinks to more detailed accounts for each of our priorities. Once again, THANK YOU so much for all you do. You are the voice birds need.

Note: we've broken the following table into "top priorities," "key priorities," and "other legislation we're tracking." Legislation we're tracking does not imply we're advocating for or against the policy, unless otherwise specified.

Policy Priority	Latest Update
TOP PRIORITIES	
<p>Clean Fuel Standard A proven technology-neutral approach to reducing emissions from transportation fuels. Creates a market that accelerates the transition to alternative energy sources such as sustainable biofuels and electricity at</p>	<p>This bill passed both chambers and is heading to Governor Inslee's desk. The bill contains a provision that makes implementation of a Clean Fuel Standard contingent on passage of a new</p>

<p>minimal cost.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1091</p>	<p>transportation package with at least a \$.05 gas tax. We're expecting a special session to pass this transportation package sometime later this year.</p>
<p>Growth Management and Climate Change Updates our state's growth management act to include climate change as a planning element. If passed, would fund a requirement that counties in Washington plan for emissions reductions and climate resilience.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1099</p>	<p>While this legislation is now dead for the session, advocates secured a budget proviso that would provide the Department of Commerce funding to develop model climate change elements.</p>
<p>Conservation in the Operating Budget During the last recession we saw the harsh consequences of cutting conservation spending in the midst of tight budgets. Just last year we finally corrected some of the long-term impacts of austerity in the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) budget. This year we must ensure that DFW is able to carry out it's important role in conserving and restoring habitat across the state. We'll also be tracking a number of key budget provisos that support habitat restoration and long-term planning in the shrub-steppe, which was devastated by fire in 2020.</p>	<p>Natural resource agencies fared well in the final operating budgets. Additionally, both of our proviso priorities - least conflict solar and shrub-steppe fire recovery - were included in the final operating budget. The budget will be official once Governor Inslee signs it in the coming days.</p>
<p>Conservation in the Capital Budget The capital budget is used to make long-term infrastructure investments in Washington. There's no more important infrastructure than the habitat that birds and people call home. We're calling for large, stimulative investments in grant programs that fund habitat protection and restoration while also promoting outdoor recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>The legislature passed one of the strongest conservation-oriented capital budgets in recent memory.</p> <p>Thank your legislator for prioritizing conservation and outdoor recreation.</p>

OTHER KEY PRIORITIES	
HEAL Act	

<p>The important work of rectifying historical injustice must be incorporated into the day-to-day work of our state agencies. This year's HEAL Act is the result of an inclusive environmental justice task force that recommended a number of ways to accomplish this goal.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5141</p>	<p>This bill passed both chambers and is on its way to the Governor for his signature.</p>
<p>Shoreline Armoring Hardened shoreline armoring in the Puget Sound can negatively impact birds by threatening the forage fish they depend on. This legislation promotes softer and more natural shoreline armoring, requiring landowners to consider alternatives that restore ecosystem function and recover threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5273</p>	<p>This bill passed both chambers and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.</p>

OTHER LEGISLATION WE'RE TRACKING	
<p><i>Climate Commitment Act</i> This legislation sets a cap on greenhouse gas emissions in Washington and directs the Department of Ecology to set up a market for allowances that the state's largest emitters must purchase. Revenues from the purchase of allowances would be directed towards investments in decarbonization and climate resilience.</p> <p><i>While this bill is still a work in progress, it has been greatly improved in terms of environmental justice elements. As part of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, we have elected to endorse this legislation as it moves forward and continues to be improved.</i></p>	<p>This bill passed both chambers and is heading to Governor Inslee's desk. The bill contains a provision that makes implementation of a Clean Fuel Standard contingent on passage of a new transportation package with at least a \$.05 gas tax. We're expecting a special session to pass this transportation package sometime later this year.</p>

<p>Legislation: SB 5126</p>	
<p><i>Funding Wildfire prevention</i> This legislation would fund the implementation of the Department of Natural Resource's 20-year forest health strategic plan. No specific funding source has been identified as yet, but a number of our partners in the environmental community have identified this legislation as a priority.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1168</p>	<p>This bill passed out of both chambers and is heading to the Governor's desk for his signature.</p>
<p><i>Waste Reduction</i> This legislation reduces plastic waste by establishing a minimum for recycled content in plastic beverage containers and prohibiting certain polystyrene products.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5022</p>	<p>This bill has passed out of both chambers and will likely head to Governor Inslee's desk soon.</p>
<p><i>Evergreen Communities</i> This legislation directs the Department of Natural Resources to analyze and provide technical assistance for improved urban and community forestry in Washington State.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1216</p>	<p>This bill passed the Senate, the House concurred with amendments, and the next stop is Governor Inslee's desk.</p>