



Audubon | WASHINGTON

2022 Weekly Legislative Update

As we enter the 2022 legislative session we have a lot of recent wins to celebrate, but also a lot of work ahead in order to meaningfully protect birds and people in a changing climate. This year's short, 60-day legislative session provides an abundance of opportunities for you to take action to advance policies that make the world safer and healthier for our feathered friends.

If you haven't already, please [send your legislator an email](#) asking them to support Audubon Washington's priority bills. In our tracker, you'll also see several opportunities to take action for specific bills we're supporting or opposing. It's important to note that many of these opportunities to take action pertain to bills in specific committees, so if you don't live in the district of a legislator on the relevant committee, you won't be able to use the action alert.

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	
Well-sited, Equitable Solar Energy Creates a new incentive program to provide funding to support low-income solar installations on buildings, parking lots, existing impervious surfaces, and other locations that don't displace habitat or prime farmland. Legislation: HB 1814	This bill, recently introduced by Rep. Shewmake (D-42), is scheduled for a hearing on Friday, January 21st at 10am. <i>Next Thursday's weekly update will provide an opportunity for you to take action on this important legislation.</i>
Growth Management and Climate Change Updates our state's growth management act to include climate change as a planning element. If passed, it would fund a requirement that counties in Washington plan for emissions reductions and climate resilience. Legislation: HB 1099	This legislation almost made it across the finish line in 2021 and is well-positioned to pass this year. As of now, the bill needs to come to the House floor before moving on to the Senate. <i>Keep an eye out for opportunities to support this bill!</i>

<p>Shoreline Protection in Puget Sound</p> <p>Requires a comprehensive assessment of Puget Sound shoreline conditions, identifying structures that are either unpermitted or have fallen into disrepair. It also requires replacement structures to meet the same (more environmentally protective) standards as new structures.</p> <p>Legislation: TBD</p>	<p>This bill is in the final stages of drafting and has not yet been introduced. It is Audubon Washington's top priority for Puget Sound protection in 2022.</p>
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OTHER KEY PRIORITIES	
<p>Lorraine Loomis Act</p> <p>Addresses habitat quality and water temperature in Washington's watersheds. The bill would create a standard for tree height next to rivers and streams, establish a new Riparian Habitat Conservation Grant Program to help landowners meet this standard, and provide the accountability and oversight necessary for programmatic success.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1838 / SB 5727</p>	<p>This bill has its first public hearing in the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources on Wednesday, January 19th at 10:00 AM.</p> <p>Click here to tell your representative to vote yes on the Lorraine Loomis Act.</p>
<p>Solar Energy in Parking Lots</p> <p>As we work to encourage better siting of solar energy projects, parking lots present a unique opportunity to produce clean electricity in the built environment while also reducing the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5714</p>	<p>This bill had a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on Thursday, January 13 at 10:30 AM. Audubon Washington testified in support of this legislation.</p> <p>Click here to tell your senator to vote YES on the solar canopy bill.</p>
<p>Conservation Futures Levy Lid Lift</p> <p>Fourteen counties rely on the Conservation Futures program to generate funds needed to permanently protect and maintain open space, farms,</p>	<p>This legislation has its first public hearing in the House Committee on Finance on Tuesday, January 18th at 1:30 PM</p>

<p>forests, parks, and trails. This bill removes a cap on the amount of money counties can raise to invest in local conservation projects.</p>	<p>Click here to tell your representative to vote YES on Conservation Futures.</p>
<p>Legislation: HB 1672</p> <p>Technical Support for Sustainable Farms and Fields</p> <p>One of our priorities for 2022 is funding the Sustainable Farms and Fields program, which was created in 2020 but because of the pandemic, never funded. We're asking legislators to not only fund the program, but to pass this bill which provides more technical assistance for landowners who want to adopt carbon-smart farming practices.</p>	<p>This bill had a public hearing in the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources on January 11th and is scheduled for an executive session (vote) on January 18th.</p>

OTHER LEGISLATION WE'RE TRACKING	
<p>Protecting Washington's Eelgrass and Kelp</p> <p>Calls for a collaborative plan to conserve and restore 10,000 acres of kelp and eelgrass beds by 2040.</p>	<p>This bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks on Thursday, January 20th at 1:30 PM</p>
<p>Legislation: SB 5619</p> <p>Waste Reduction</p> <p>This legislation, an Environmental Priorities Coalition priority, addresses plastic waste by funding improvements in waste infrastructure, uniform access for residents across the state, and a clear list of what people can recycle. This bill will have the added benefit of shifting recycling costs away from ratepayers and onto the manufacturers.</p>	<p>This bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on Tuesday, January 18th at 10:30 AM</p>

GMA Sprawl Loophole

This legislation, [an Environmental Priorities Coalition priority](#), closes a sprawl loophole that undermines the intent of the Growth Management Act (GMA). The loophole allows counties to subvert the Growth Management Hearing Board (GMHB) appeals process to illegally build sprawling developments that devours farmlands, forests, and critical habitats.

Legislation: [SB 5042](#)

This bill didn't make it out of the Senate last year, but has been identified as a priority by leadership. It is expected to get a vote on the Senate floor in the coming weeks.